

**SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
PUBLIC MEETING**

October 1, 1997
ANS/ANB Hall
Yakutat, Alaska

**VOLUME II
DRAFT - PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. William C. Thomas, Chairman
Ms. Dolly Garza
Mr. Herman Kitka, Sr.
Ms. Mim McConnell
Ms. Patricia Phillips
Ms. Mary Rudolph
Mr. John F. Feller, Jr.
Mr. John F. Vale
Mr. Gabriel George
Ms. Marilyn R. Wilson
Mr. Jeff Nickerson

Regional Council Coordinator:

Fred Clark

P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Good morning everybody. Happy to see
4 everybody's back after the beautiful day and evening yesterday
5 with the good hospitality and the good weather. The visitors
6 are certainly enjoying themselves, and we hope we haven't
7 encumbered too many inconveniences for you folks.

8

9 Before we start this morning, we have two requests to
10 be heard, number one, I'd like to recognize and acknowledge the
11 local Camp ANB president Alaska Native Brotherhood. For those
12 of you that aren't familiar, this is the Alaska Native
13 Brotherhood and Sisterhood Hall. And every camp in Southeast
14 -- every community in Southeast has a local camp. In your
15 language it would be a local chapter. So with that I'd like to
16 introduce Ray Sensmeier. Ray.

17

18 MR. SENSMEIER: Thank you, Mr. Thomas. I'd like to
19 welcome the Commission. I know certain members of the
20 Commission, Mr. Kitka and Dolly Garza, it's good to see you,
21 John Feller. It's been kind of a wild two days. We've had one
22 of our elders pass away and we're trying to deal with that.
23 And last night we had a tragic accident with one of our young
24 men who died, so we're dealing with that also. But we welcome
25 you here and I'd like to call on George Ramos, who welcomed you
26 yesterday to open the meeting with a prayer. He's the chairman
27 of our Legislative committee which deals with subsistence
28 issues. So at this time, Brother George.

29

30 MR. RAMOS: Before I ask you to stand, I'd like to tell
31 you a little bit about the way we work in the Yakutat area. I
32 grew up with my uncle. I was one of the, I guess you call it,
33 fortunate or unfortunate one. When we were hunting in the ice
34 up in the bay, hunting for seal in the spring time I used to
35 watch them put food into the fire in the morning and then he'd
36 say a prayer, and he would always start with my grandfathers
37 and my uncles is the way his prayers started. And finally I
38 got brave enough to ask him, how come you always say your
39 grandfather and your uncle, you never say like everybody else I
40 hear in church, heavenly father or god or Jesus, and he says, a
41 long time before Christianity came into our land, we used to
42 ask the blessing of our grandfathers and our uncles because
43 they gave us knowledge and they gave us strength. And so this
44 morning, I would like to ask our grandfathers to bless us.
45 Would you please stand and join hands if possible.

46

47 (Prayer - in Native Language) Amen. Thank you.

48

49 They always say, my grandfathers and my uncles, be with
50 us this day as we do our daily chores. Whatever we are going

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1 to do we hope you bless us and let no harm come to us this day,
2 so be it. That's the Tlingit prayer as I used to hear it when
3 I was a boy. But I think like Ray said, something happened in
4 our community, one of our elders passed away and I was very
5 proud of him, it's Clifford Williams. Because he was one of
6 the first men from Yakutat to go into the service. In fact, we
7 had an awards ceremony for him during the convention here in
8 Yakutat. He went into the service one month before the Second
9 World War started, and so I called him an old soldier, and I
10 put the old soldier's uniform on him because I am a retired
11 soldier myself. I have the old steel pot, the big shoes they
12 have. I have an original trench coat, the long trench coat the
13 military used to do, leggings. I got the other three and I
14 dressed him up in it and I brought him out in the school to
15 honor him and we issued him a certificate of recognition, along
16 with Captain John Bremner from Yakutat, who was the Alaska
17 Territorial Guard captain in Yakutat. And so I was very
18 disappointed to see the State of Alaska drew up the territorial
19 guard post there and it says, Aleut, Eskimos, Athabaskan, but
20 it does not say Tlingit on there, because I know the Tlingits
21 were part of the Territorial Guard.

22
23 So I would just like to ask for a moment of silence
24 here for Clifford Williams.

25
26 (Moment of silence in honor of Clifford Williams)

27
28 I do thank you very much and I think we do have another
29 accident in Yakutat, but that one there I think I'd rather wait
30 for the details, if that's okay with you. Thank you very much.

31
32 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, George. On behalf of the
33 Advisory Council and visiting Staff people, we'd like to extend
34 our condolences that experienced a loss from their family and
35 those that are in grief with regards to the accident that
36 occurred. We all know the pain and agony that you're
37 experiencing and we all know the value of support at a time
38 like that. So please accept our support by our being here, and
39 we hope that the healing process is quick for those families.
40 Thank you.

41
42 And thank you also for giving us an introduction of the
43 traditional beginning of any meeting that has been pretty much
44 designed by the ANB, and it's practiced almost without fail. I
45 opted not to do that because of our mixture of membership and
46 participation. I didn't want to impose necessarily our
47 traditions on you by virtue of our association. But this is
48 what happened, and I'm glad it did and it gives you a little
49 bit of idea of other ways of doing things.

50

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1 Before we start our meeting I have to tell the people
2 of Yakutat about a legend they don't even know about, it
3 happened in Yakutat. There was a couple of people that came
4 from a different part of Alaska to go hunting up here on the
5 Situk. Well, when they got to town they had to come and find
6 the owner of a campsite on the River. And so once they found
7 the owner, they took their boat and got out to the campsite,
8 didn't take them long to find it but it was dusk when they got
9 there. So they tidied up the place and got everything
10 organized, their food, their water, their guns and beds and
11 everything and they had a little bit of daylight left. So one
12 of the guys said, I'm going to walk back up here a little ways
13 and see what the country looks like back here. So he's walking
14 back there and everything's clear walking, there was no
15 obstacles, a nice trail, and then he came across a big tree
16 that blew over, the roots sticking up. As he walked around
17 there he came across this bear and the bear was standing on his
18 hind legs and so they startled each other. So the bears leaps
19 at the hunter and the hunter had a reaction, so he cranks the
20 shell in guns aims up, ducks and shoots, and he's waiting for
21 the bear to land on him and kill him. Well, nothing happened,
22 so he looked back and the bear's running like everything. So
23 he goes back to camp and he told his partner what happened.
24 His partner said, well, he said, maybe you better practice that
25 shot in case it happens again. So he goes down on the beach
26 and he's loading the gun, crouching and shooting. He does this
27 a few times and pretty soon they could hear the bushes
28 crackling and rustling up in the woods. So they said, well,
29 let's go back and investigate it, see what's going on. So they
30 got back there as quiet as they could and when they got there,
31 they got to the tree where the roots were sticking up and where
32 they met the bear, and the bear was practicing short leaps.

33
34 Okay, with that, we'll start with -- well, maybe we've
35 got some interesting news. I got a note here that says, Sue
36 has an update on the moratorium. Okay, Sue.

37
38 MS. DETWILER: I just talked to our office this morning
39 and apparently Senator Stevens, yesterday, introduced some
40 language on the moratorium and also amendments to Title VIII
41 into the conference committee on the Interior Appropriations
42 Bill. So what his proposal would do would amend ANILCA pretty
43 much the same as what the Governor's Task Force had
44 recommended, and also extend the moratorium until December of
45 1998. So if -- it hasn't passed yet, it was just introduced
46 yesterday. They do expect it to pass, I don't know when that
47 will be, probably soon. And that will give the State
48 Legislature the opportunity to deal with the Constitutional
49 Amendment and this proposed statutes and also a chance for the
50 issue to go to the ballot next November, if that's what's going

0062

1 to happen.

2

3 And as far as that effects us now, we don't know
4 whether or not the proposed rule would be published or not. If
5 the moratorium does, in fact, get passed, that means that we
6 may still be able to publish the proposed rule, but in any
7 event, we would not be implementing on the ground fisheries
8 management for the next season. So next summer would be
9 basically the same as it has been.

10

11 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you very much. Mim.

12

13 MS. McCONNELL: I also heard on Raven Radio this
14 morning, for those that didn't hear it, that Julie Kitka is in
15 Washington with some other Native people, they've been there
16 all week, I guess. And apparently they were talking about
17 going to the President and asking him to veto the Interior
18 Appropriations Bill. So I don't know, who knows?

19

20 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. Does anybody have any
21 good news? I think I'll tell my story over again. Well, thank
22 you for sharing that because that's a curiosity we all have.
23 And we'll just kind of follow it, I'm sure we'll hear some more
24 before the day is out, but we appreciate that.

25

26 Okay, Wrangell-St. Elias SRC; is that ready John?

27

28 MR. VALE: Mr. Chairman, I'm waiting for some
29 information to come over from the Park Service Office. It
30 should be here in a little while, so I'm not quite ready yet.

31

32 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, thank you. How about the
33 annual report? Is that ready yet? Would you like to wait a
34 little longer?

35

36 MR. CLARK: Pardon?

37

38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Would you like to wait a little
39 longer?

40

41 MR. CLARK: Yeah.

42

43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

44

45 MR. CLARK: No, we can do the annual report. You've
46 gotten the responses from both the Federal Subsistence Board
47 and from the Forest Service. And has everybody had a chance to
48 read those and go over them and get familiar with the
49 responses? I guess the main thing is, do you have any
50 questions or concerns that I might be able to answer or Staff

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1 might be able to answer concerning those responses?

2
3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Any questions?

4
5 MS. PHILLIPS: I do.

6
7 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Patti.

8
9 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: On the number six, manage second
10 growth to produce the necessary kinds and distribution of
11 habitats for species diversity. The response was some aspects
12 of the second growth management program to provide habitats are
13 pre-commercial thinning and retention of snags during logging.
14 I was wondering if that's mandate and will that be happening
15 with all second growth or with just some second growths?
16 Where's Steve.

17
18 MR. KESSLER: The plan calls for a certain level of
19 pre-commercial thinning on an annual basis across the Forest,
20 and I don't have that number in front of me. It seems to me
21 like it might be 1,700 acres, I don't remember exactly. I
22 could look it up in the Forest plan here and see what it says.
23 I also talks about retention of snags during timber harvest and
24 actually pockets of other types of retention associated with
25 stream buffers, such as the high hazardous soils and other
26 alternatives declared cutting that leaves pockets of non-
27 harvested areas. So that the overall objective is to maintain
28 a greater diversity within clearcut areas or within timber
29 harvest areas than previous.

30
31 As a matter-of-fact, according to our calculations, in
32 areas that are available for timber harvest, 57 percent of the
33 old growth timber, in areas of old growth now, 57 percent of
34 the old growth would remain following timber harvest in an area
35 that's been harvested. And it's quite different than in the
36 past. And those calculations are within the plan.

37
38 MS. PHILLIPS: How many acres per year did you say
39 would be thinned, approximately?

40
41 MR. KESSLER: I think it was 1,700, but I'd like to
42 verify that in the Forest plan if you'd like? Would you like
43 me to verify that right now?

44
45 MS. PHILLIPS: Well, my concern is for a certain number
46 of years after a cut that you have forage for deer, but then
47 the growth starts to get so compact that there isn't much
48 habitat for the deer forage.

49
50 MR. KESSLER: Right. And thinning can prolong the

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1 amount of time that it takes before an area that has been
2 clearcut harvested, it is so dense that you don't get the light
3 through to the understory. If it's just a straight clearcut,
4 and even with a considerable amount of thinning, we really
5 don't have information right now to be able to say whether that
6 forage can be kept for perpetuity at the bottom, on the
7 undergrowth. What we think we know is that it'd take multiple
8 thinnings to make sure that that would still happen.

9
10 What we've gone to and what we're looking at for this
11 plan are other ways to harvest timber, to leave more of the
12 natural conditions out there so that you might have areas that
13 have been harvested using the clearcut method that may no
14 longer have forage available 30 years after harvest. But there
15 are also going to be other areas that will essentially be
16 untouched that will maintain forest -- forage. And how those
17 connect to each other, that's all part of the project planning
18 that has to occur.

19
20 I think I mentioned yesterday these were parien (ph)
21 corridors where you're maintaining corridors not only on the
22 fish streams, but in also the majority of the non-fish streams
23 and those are going to help with that activity between all of
24 this -- all of the different old growth areas. Again, the
25 beach fringe helps with that kind of activity also.

26
27 MS. PHILLIPS: In order to optimize deer population for
28 subsistence use and other predatory take, then we need to make
29 sure that there's deer forage there and you were saying that
30 multiple thinning would probably be necessary?

31
32 MR. KESSLER: As I understand it and I'm not an expert
33 in this, but as I understand it, we don't have all the data yet
34 to know how multiple thinnings would work to maintain that
35 forage. It is thought that it would prolong the amount of time
36 before you'd have this canopy closure, but it may not make it
37 -- it's not the same as old growth where you have.....

38
39 MS. PHILLIPS: Right.

40
41 MR. KESSLER:a whole cycle of falling down trees
42 and canopy openings occurring letting the sunlight in. There
43 will be reductions in the amount of forage available.

44
45 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: So that number could change?

46
47 MR. KESSLER: Which number, the acres.....

48
49 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: On the thinning -- on the clearing,
50 yeah?

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1 MR. KESSLER: Yeah. And those are numbers that are put
2 in as general guidelines. What actually will be thinned or not
3 thinned is more -- has to do with the funding pattern that we
4 receive -- or the Forest Service receives for that activity.

5
6 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, I should hope.....

7
8 MR. KESSLER: We could say that we want to thin a
9 certain amount and put it there in the Forest plan, and then
10 there's the whole funding process of how much of that Forest
11 plan gets funded. And that has to do with timber harvest, road
12 construction, thinning and all the other things that we do.

13
14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, the question I was trying to
15 get in earlier was, I would hope that the determining factor on
16 what they thin and what they don't thin will depend more on the
17 condition of the area they're anticipating doing that work in
18 rather than depending on the funding that's available. But
19 we'll just wait and see, I guess.

20
21 MR. KESSLER: Well, I think that, you know, personally
22 I think it's the ability of individuals and groups to help
23 ensure that that funding is available to do thinning if that's
24 what's needed.

25
26 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. Jeff.

27
28 MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, I had a question. Before
29 they come into an area to thin it, how many years is that, is
30 it 10 or 12 years?

31
32 MR. KESSLER: There may be someone here who might be
33 able to answer that better, maybe Larry, for instance can -- do
34 you know that number better than I do? I think it's normally
35 15 to 20 years; is that.....

36
37 MR. MESHEW: That's what I remember is, Steve. I don't
38 have that information.....

39
40 COURT REPORTER: Wait a minute.

41
42 MR. CLARK: Larry.....

43
44 COURT REPORTER: You're going to have to come up to the
45 microphone, I can't hear you back there.

46
47 MR. KESSLER: Larry Meshew from the Ketchikan area just
48 said that 15 to 20 years is approximately what he remembers as
49 when the normal thinning occurs, and that's a pre-commercial
50 thinning. There could be commercial thinning later on.

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1 Commercial thinning being when the -- when you can actually get
2 some value from removing some of the wood and it could be sold.
3 Pre-commercial thin means that the trees that are cut are
4 usually left just to lay there on the ground and they're
5 usually a much smaller diameter.

6
7 MR. SCHENCK: Mr. Chairman.

8
9 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Sure. Come to the phone Ted.

10
11 MR. SCHENCK: Ted Schenck, Chatham Area Wildlife
12 Biologist. According to the plan for wildlife management in
13 our timber harvest areas, we're going to be looking at thinning
14 between 15 and 25 years after the first harvest is complete.
15 And that depends on site index and the growing conditions on
16 the site, how fast it regenerates and that kind of thing. But
17 we'd be doing the first one as a pre-commercial thinning and
18 then subsequent management within the stand for forage could be
19 done through pre-commercial harvest or commercial harvest as
20 the stand ages and the trees get taller. And that's what we
21 have built in.

22
23 I did find some numbers in an ideal world with
24 unlimited budgets about how many acres we would harvest -- you
25 know trying to do. And in wildlife, it kind of depends on the
26 area, we'd be looking at about 5,200 acres at Ketchikan, about
27 1,300 acres on the Stikine area and about 1,500 acres a year on
28 the Chatham area. Now, we haven't gotten to that point yet
29 because our budgets for doing this kind of work, just haven't
30 been increasing. Typically we're doing between 50 and 300
31 acres a year on Chatham.

32
33 MR. KESSLER: Now, that's for wildlife purposes.

34
35 MR. SCHENCK: For wildlife purposes.

36
37 MR. KESSLER: And it differs from civil cultural
38 purposes.

39
40 MR. SCHENCK: That's specifically in areas like right
41 parien zones or high subsistence use areas where we'd like to
42 get that second growth coming on line as quick as we can.

43
44 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. Mim.

45
46 MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, I had one more question.

47
48 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Jeff.

49
50 MR. NICKERSON: On the decisions you make on thinning

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1 trees is to enhance to the growth of the other trees, correct?

2

3 MR. SCHENCK: It can be for a variety of reasons. One
4 of the benefits for thinning is that the trees do grow up and
5 achieve different sizes at different times in their life. But
6 the stand can have different conditions later on, too. So you
7 look at the trees and the stands.

8

9 MR. KESSLER: Okay, I have the figure here. For timber
10 purposes, pre-commercial thin, an average of 2,130 acres
11 annually of previously harvested suitable timber lands. So
12 2,130 acres. And that would be for timber production purposes
13 and with the associated wildlife purposes and other reasons
14 that would benefit from that. The numbers that Ted just read
15 off are for in other areas where there's primarily a wildlife
16 benefit. And if you want, I can give you references to page
17 numbers in the Forest plan on that.

18

19 MR. NICKERSON: Do you have any information on when
20 this logged area, clearcut area becomes impassable for
21 wildlife?

22

23 MR. SCHENCK: It kind of depends on what kind of
24 wildlife you're talking about.

25

26 MR. NICKERSON: Well, let's say deer.

27

28 MR. SCHENCK: Let me put it this way, trafficability
29 for people gets better and better as the stand gets older and
30 it begins to thin out. What happens after a clearcut is you
31 get a lot of young trees coming back. And as they start to
32 grow in the clearcut, what happens is the brush and berry
33 bushes that normally come up right after the harvest start to
34 get shaded out by the new stand, and that sometime between 10
35 to 20 years after the stand has been harvested, the young
36 growth starts to get really thick. And when I mean really
37 thick, I mean the trees are so close together that it's hard to
38 physically get through them. And as they start to grow and
39 their canopies grow together, they shade out the understory.
40 And the stems are very dense and the branches become
41 intertwined and it's hard to get through. Now, that's a
42 general work picture.

43

44 There are places where the deer keep paths going
45 through these clearcuts for a long time. When we go in and
46 thin, we cut a lot of these new trees down and the thin stand,
47 if it's all thinned to a uniform spacing, can be very hard to
48 walk through for people. I don't know if they're very hard to
49 walk through for deer or not. It's hard for me to know what a
50 deer thinks, but I know for people it's hard to get through.

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1 So what we try to do is work with the civil culturalists when
2 they write their thinning prescriptions to take advantage of
3 parts of the stand that are better for tree growing and we thin
4 those in areas that are good for deer cover. We might leave
5 those and we might open up an area so we can get forage because
6 we're looking for forage and cover and trafficability within
7 the stand in a proper arrangement. We're trying to do more and
8 more of that. And for the last four or five years on the Sitka
9 ranger district where we're doing most of our thinning, we're
10 putting that within the stand diversity in there. Now, what
11 the new Forest plan says is that we're trying to leave a lot of
12 that diversity in the stands that we're going to be harvesting
13 in a different way than we had before. Long answer.

14
15 Other questions?

16
17 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Mim.

18
19 MS. McCONNELL: That pretty much answered what I had to
20 say.

21
22 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You wore us down. John.

23
24 MR. VALE: I have a comment I'd like to say on item two
25 that deals with the Section 810 analysis for planning
26 activities. And I view 810 as critically important in
27 protecting subsistence because, as I read it, when lands are
28 going to be withdrawn say for timber harvest activities, it
29 requires the least adverse impact alternative be considered in
30 the planning process. And I guess what I'm looking for,
31 reading the last line here, it says because project planning
32 occurs throughout the year, the public comment periods do not
33 necessarily coincide with the Council meetings, it may be
34 difficult for the Council as a whole to comment on all project
35 proposals. And you know, I guess I understand that, but I
36 guess I'm looking for a pledge from the Forest Service inasmuch
37 as possible to develop these so that the comment period is
38 available to the Regional Councils, you know, so that when we
39 hear from people from Southeast are being impacted by these
40 proposed developments and their concerns about how they effect
41 subsistence, that we have an opportunity to respond to those.
42 And so that's my -- I'm wondering, as much as possible, how
43 much the Forest Service can pledge to keep the Regional
44 Councils involved during the public comment period there? Any
45 response?

46
47 MR. KESSLER: I guess I can't really respond to that
48 because I'm not in the right role for that. I've been working
49 on the Tongass Land Management Plan for quite some years.
50 There are area representatives here who might be able to help

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1 with that. Fred Clark might be able to help some with that.
2 There are there quarterly updates of activities that, I think
3 it addresses in here, we will make sure Council members are on
4 the mailing list for quarterly lists of NEPA action so at least
5 you're aware of those. Most of these timber sales are multi-
6 year activities so that there's a scoping which occurs,
7 sometime later after the scoping there's a draft that comes
8 out, so there's the ability to comment on the scoping, there's
9 ability to comment on the draft, and then the final comes out
10 and it takes, usually at least two years for a typical project
11 to go through that process. So in the typical two years,
12 there's -- you'd probably have four Council meetings during the
13 one cycle of just setting up a timber sale.

14
15 So it seems like, to me, like there's the opportunity
16 there. Now, I haven't been working with individual timber
17 sales, so I guess I would ask others that are here that maybe
18 they can respond differently. Anyone else?

19
20 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I think what we'll do is we'll go
21 ahead and we'll formally submit a letter to the proper desk and
22 see if we can't get something worked out between the Council
23 and the department heads.

24
25 MR. VALE: Okay.

26
27 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: So we'll do that.

28
29 MR. KESSLER: I think it would be well worth working
30 with probably our area planners to devise some method to do
31 that.

32
33 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

34
35 MR. KESSLER: Yeah.

36
37 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Anymore questions, John?

38
39 MR. VALE: That's it, thank you. Unless we have other
40 individuals that would like to respond.

41
42 MR. KESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

43
44 MR. FELLER: Yesterday, Steve, you talked a little bit
45 about management, management implication reduction factors.

46
47 MR. KESSLER: Yeah.

48
49 MR. FELLER: And was that off of -- let me see what I
50 remember about -- I was kind of tired yesterday, was that 320

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1 million board feet that we were working -- somewhere around
2 300, I don't want to put you on the spot but.....

3
4 MR. KESSLER: The allowable sale quantity of the final
5 Forest plan or the new Forest plan is 267 million board feet.

6
7 MR. FELLER: 267. And then you said something like the
8 MIRF is about 200 and something?

9
10 MR. KESSLER: Well, I can give you some numbers here.

11
12 MR. FELLER: Okay, appreciate it.

13
14 MR. KESSLER: And I'm now looking at Page A-12 of the
15 Forest plan, those numbers -- unless you have a copy of the
16 Forest plan you don't have it, there's a table in here that
17 talks to the suitability -- timber resource lands suitability
18 and it goes through the -- depicts the number of acres on the
19 Forest and starts going through a reduction of process to
20 figure out from all the acres on the Forest, what lands are
21 available for timber harvest. It takes out non-forest lands,
22 forested lands that aren't available because of wilderness and
23 legislative, things like that. Eventually you get down in this
24 table to a point where you see that the number of acres that
25 are available for timber harvest are about 1.07 -- let me just
26 add -- it would be about 1,770,000 acres. But from that
27 1,770,000 acres, 345,000 acres are taken out for this model
28 implementation reduction factor. So 345,000 acres are taken
29 out, we -- and -- I added the wrong numbers, I'm sorry, it's
30 close to that -- there's 1,021,000 and of that 345,000 acres
31 are removed for the model implementation reduction factor. So
32 it's a sizeable number of acres that are removed. It's for
33 that reason. And if one were to look in Appendix B of the
34 Environmental Impact Statement, it actually shows you why those
35 acres are taken out and why they're removed. For what
36 purposes.

37
38 MR. FELLER: Thank you, Steve. Yeah, I was just talking
39 about -- asking about that because Wrangell's a logging town, I
40 think Yakutat is too, just to clarify that a little bit.

41
42 I was wondering about another thing, are some of the
43 factors like for winter canopy for deer, is that -- or old
44 growth?

45
46 MR. KESSLER: Are those included in those production
47 factors?

48
49 MR. FELLER: Yeah.

50

0071

1 MR. KESSLER: No.

2
3 MR. FELLER: No, okay.

4
5 MR. KESSLER: No, they're not. Those have been taken
6 in consideration in different ways through -- and actually
7 there's a letter that talks to that about some, the two
8 strategies, the overall old growth and habitat conservation
9 strategy is one way and that includes the large meeting small
10 habitat conservation areas that distribute across the Forest
11 and the beach fringe, the preparing area and all these other
12 purposes. And that is going to benefit deer benefit to a large
13 degree. Just the overall reduction in the amount of available
14 lands for timber harvest will benefit deer a lot. And a lot of
15 these acres are some of the better deer winter range.

16
17 MR. FELLER: Okay, thank you, Steve. Thank you, Mr.
18 Chairman.

19
20 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Anybody else. Thank you.

21
22 MR. KESSLER: Thank you.

23
24 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Oh, we got another one. Dolly.

25
26 MS. GARZA: Item 7, there's a discussion and response
27 regarding the luds, and in the response it says that there's no
28 analysis to determine between the natural setting areas and
29 customary and traditional uses. Part of that is because of the
30 TRUCS survey which is being done. Could you give me a report
31 on where that survey is or when it will likely be out and if
32 that comparison will be made?

33
34 MR. KESSLER: I cannot do that. I do not know the
35 status right now of the TRUCS survey, but Fred has an update.

36
37 MR. CLARK: There has been a proposal that's been put
38 in front of the regional management teams. There's a group put
39 together, the acronym is EMIT, and I really can't tell you what
40 it stands for because I don't know. But they are a group
41 that's responsible for divvying up some of the monies that will
42 go towards research, a number of different aspects. And part
43 of it is for kind of monitoring things going on across the
44 Tongass. Part of it is TLMP related studies. But one of the
45 proposals that was put in front of this group was to fund, at
46 least, the beginnings of an updated TRUC. One proposal that
47 went forward was to the tune of about \$250,000. There are
48 several different lists on which they rank all the studies that
49 have been put before them. This particular study, as of now,
50 is number three on their list. So things are looking hopeful,

0072

1 but it hasn't been fully evaluated and ranked and selected by
2 this group, but there is some indication that it's moving
3 forward, it's being looked at seriously. And as soon as I get
4 more information on that I will forward that to the Council.

5
6 MS. GARZA: Okay. Fred, maybe I'm confused then. I
7 thought that, at least in Sitka, the initial survey work was
8 done. So are you saying that the money isn't there to do the
9 analysis?

10
11 MR. CLARK: There are different things going on. One
12 is it's based on Forest Service funding and there's another
13 whole series of things going on. I could let Bob Schroeder
14 talk about this more, that the State has actually undertaken as
15 the beginnings of the TRUCS update. Because neither the
16 Subsistence Division from the State, nor the Forest Service has
17 fully funded anything to get the kind of data that is really
18 needed for a TRUCS update. We have -- you know, what we're
19 trying to do is spread out, you know, follow any avenue that we
20 can to try to get funding to get the kind of information that
21 is needed by the Council, by the Board -- that's both the State
22 Boards and the Federal Boards. So what we're trying to do is
23 take every avenue we can in order to at least step forward on
24 that. I don't know if Bob or Elizabeth want to say anything
25 more along those lines at this point or not, but we're -- we're
26 working on a number of different fronts to try to get some
27 information.

28
29 MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, just to clarify -- Bob
30 Schroeder, Division of Subsistence, Fish and Game. This last
31 year, as you know Dolly, we were able to work with the Sitka
32 Tribe and to do an update for Sitka. We had minimal funding
33 from State sources to do surveys in a number of communities and
34 so we were able to do surveys in -- let's see, I'll probably
35 miss someone in the list, in Sitka, Hoonah, Angoon and Kake and
36 Point Baker and Port Protection and as well, as Haines and
37 Klukwan. We're not funded to complete this work. And the
38 State funding picture is fairly grim for finding support for
39 that work, either this year or the coming year.

40
41 We've worked real well with Fred Clark and with Stuart
42 Allen on the TLMP planning team. And I know they're doing all
43 they can to push for getting this work that you want done and
44 that definitely we feel needs to take place. But we don't have
45 it supported yet, so that's the condition. So anything you can
46 do, I really appreciate your support in the past on this matter
47 and I think basically if we're going to do a good job of
48 managing subsistence fish and wildlife, we need basic data.
49 And that's the way decisions that you make are going to stand.
50 So perhaps Fred will have some suggestions later on on further

0073

1 encouragement you can give to the Federal agencies to help out
2 on this.

3
4 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Mim.

5
6 MS. McCONNELL: Speaking of studies and Stuart Allen
7 there, I'm curious what the latest is on the socioeconomic
8 survey that was supposed to happen for the Tongass and Chugach
9 National Forest that Stuart Allen was supposed to be setting
10 up? Does anyone know about that? Heads shaking.

11
12 MR. SCHROEDER: No, I don't know the status.

13
14 MS. McCONNELL: Okay.

15
16 MR. SCHROEDER: But we could certainly find out for
17 you.

18
19 MS. McCONNELL: Yeah, I'd appreciate learning more
20 about what's going on with that.

21
22 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Patti.

23
24 MS. PHILLIPS: Steve. Steve.

25
26 MR. KESSLER: Yeah.

27
28 MS. PHILLIPS: How effective will this plan be, even
29 short funding scenario, in your opinion?

30
31 MR. KESSLER: How effective will it be given the
32 funding?

33
34 MS. PHILLIPS: Knowing that second growth management,
35 thinning, and adaptive management monitoring evaluation
36 analysis and amendment process? I mean that's all going to
37 take a lot of funding to do. So how effective will -- if
38 you're not -- if you don't have the funding to do a thorough
39 job in those sort of programs that the plan calls for, then how
40 effective will the plans really be?

41
42 MR. KESSLER: Of course, that's very difficult for me
43 to answer. I'm not even sure what the funding level's going to
44 be or what the average funding level over the next 10 years
45 will be. So I really can't respond to that. I don't know what
46 the timber harvest level will be. We can guess at what that
47 will be. We anticipate it will be somewhere around 200 million
48 board feet per year, and we know that there's commitment to do
49 the appropriate monitoring at our level. And at our level, I
50 say the Regional Forest, there is the commitment to do what the

0074

1 monitoring associated with that. What the final funding that
2 comes down the line is -- I don't know what it's going to be.

3
4 MS. PHILLIPS: I'm wondering if the State is successful
5 in regaining subsistence management, will the Forest Service
6 still have the commitment to work with a regional subsistence
7 advisory council that they're beginning to show for our Council
8 -- or you know, have shown for our Council? Those are just a
9 couple of comments that I have.

10
11 MR. KESSLER: I guess I can only look at past history
12 from my perspective. And I did presentations and I talked to
13 the Council when it was under the previous State run system and
14 we were working with that group then. And we did the TRUCS
15 study then and so, we've had a commitment to work in
16 subsistence and do the subsistence information gathering and
17 consider subsistence throughout all of our activities prior to
18 this change to the Federal system. And I don't -- I foresee
19 that there still will be a commitment no matter which way this
20 goes. How that commitment might change.....

21
22 MS. PHILLIPS: You don't know.

23
24 MR. KESSLER:precisely, I don't know.

25
26 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Anybody else. Thank you.

27
28 MR. KESSLER: Thank you. Just one other comment. You
29 know, I did mention that there were some people asking about
30 specifics in the Forest plan, if you want to meet with me later
31 and I can show you where these things on thinning or number of
32 acres and that type of things exist in the Forest plan.

33
34 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. We'll take a one minute, fill
35 your coffee cup break and then we'll come back.

36
37 (Off record)

38 (On record)

39
40 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, let's come back to order. We
41 just finished -- let's see that brings us into the memorandum
42 of agreement; is that correct?

43
44 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman.

45
46 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Fred.

47
48 MR. CLARK: I feel I need to follow-up a little bit on
49 the annual report and the questions and discussions by the
50 Council, if that's okay.

0075

1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

2

3 MR. CLARK: We talked about formally submitting a
4 letter to area planners to get the Council better involved in
5 Forest Service planning process, that was just discussed about.
6 There were no motions or anything.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: That was what?

9

10 MR. CLARK:or direction to do that or do you want
11 to leave that as is right now?

12

13 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I didn't hear what you said.

14

15 MR. CLARK: There was talk about writing a letter.

16

17 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Right, right.

18

19 MR. CLARK: To the area planners.

20

21 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Right.

22

23 MR. CLARK: About getting the Council involved.

24

25 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Right.

26

27 MR. CLARK: Either better or more pro-actively. There
28 was discussion, was there a direction for the Council to
29 produce such a letter or not?

30

31 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, that brings up a good point.

32 I'll leave that up to my trusty lead Council over here.

33

34 MR. VALE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move that Council
35 draft a letter to the Forest Service regarding the 810 process
36 that we referred to earlier, trying to keep the Council in the
37 loop for this 810 process inasmuch as possible.

38

39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Is there a second?

40

41 MS. McCONNELL: Seconded.

42

43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Seconded.

44

45 MS. GARZA: Second with -- well, amendment. Is this a
46 response to this letter or is this a separate letter because if
47 it's a response to this letter I would like to throw a few more
48 points in.

49

50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, shouldn't the points be in the

0076

1 letter rather than in the motion?

2

3 MS. GARZA: If that's okay with the maker.

4

5 MR. VALE: I'm fine with that. I just wanted to make
6 sure that we express concerns about being -- having the
7 opportunity available in the 810 process and so I'm comfortable
8 with that.

9

10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. To clarify the discussion, the
11 point that Dolly just mentioned. If it turns out that they're
12 not closely associated when it comes time for the letter
13 writing, we can just do a duplicate action and make sure
14 another letter gets there as well. So we'll make sure it's
15 covered in either case.

16

17 MR. VALE: Okay.

18

19 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Further discussion.

20

21 MR. NICKERSON: Question.

22

23 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Question's been called, all those in
24 favor say aye.

25

26 IN UNISON: Aye.

27

28 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: All those opposed same sign.

29

30 (No opposing responses)

31

32 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: That motion carries.

33

34 MR. CLARK: The other issue that was talked about was
35 the TRUCS update and the status of trying to get funding for
36 the TRUCS update. Is there direction from the Council to write
37 a letter along those lines? It was only discussed, there was
38 no motion or anything concerning that.

39

40 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Was there interest in the Council to
41 do that?

42

43 MR. VALE: I'm sorry, I didn't hear the first part so
44 I'm not sure what you're referring to.

45

46 MR. CLARK: There was discussion by the Council
47 concerning the proposed funding for a TRUCS update, you know,
48 getting information concerning subsistence resources and uses
49 across the Forest.

50

0077

1 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, that was the issue I had
2 brought up that I thought might be.....

3
4 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

5
6 MS. GARZA:included in that other letter, but it
7 could be a separate letter and perhaps go to a broader
8 distribution. I think we, as a Council, need to support the
9 continuation of that survey process. I didn't realize that
10 only some of the communities had been surveyed and I think
11 that's real unfortunate. I think that we need to survey the
12 rest of the communities and we need to have adequate funding to
13 do the analysis as well as reporting.

14
15 So I would move that we draft a letter to Forest
16 Service, Fish and Game and other relevant agencies requesting
17 funding for the continuation of the TRUCS update to complete
18 surveying communities, provide analysis, and do reporting. I
19 so move.

20
21 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Could you repeat that -- is there a
22 second.

23
24 MS. GARZA: Fred's got it.....

25
26 MR. VALE: Second.

27
28 MS. GARZA:in there.

29
30 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: It's been moved and seconded.
31 Discussion. I think under discussion we'll probably have it
32 taken from the Department of Subsistence inflated budget,
33 higher up? Further discussion.

34
35 MR. VALE: Yeah. I'd just like to make a note that in
36 805, I believe it's 805, off the top of my head, that it's
37 towards the end of that section, it specifically lays out one
38 of the duties of the Council is to request studies and
39 information to support our activities. And so I'd just like to
40 make that note in there.

41
42 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Further discussion.

43
44 MR. GEORGE: Question.

45
46 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: That was just a small commentary.
47 The question's been called, all those in favor of the motion
48 say aye.

49
50 IN UNISON: Aye.

0078

1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Those opposed.

2
3 (No opposing responses)

4
5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Another letter will go out.

6
7 MR. CLARK: The third thing that was under discussion
8 by the Council was to find out the status of the economic study
9 that Stuart Allen was working on. And I guess I could just
10 commit to get information from Stuart and get that information
11 to the Council. Okay.

12
13 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I'm having a hard time hearing you,
14 Fred.

15
16 MS. WILSON: We're having a hard time hearing you, too,
17 because this fan keeps coming on.

18
19 MR. CLARK: Is this better?

20
21 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yes.

22
23 MS. McCONNELL: Yes.

24
25 MR. CLARK: Okay. Now, I feel like a rock star. What
26 I was talking about was the socioeconomic study that Stuart
27 Allen was working on and the Council had requested some
28 information about the status of that study. So I just offered
29 to follow-up with Stuart and find out the status and hand a
30 report back to the Council.

31
32 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Hearing no objection, okay. Thank
33 you, Fred.

34
35 That brings us now to Item 6(E), Tab F.

36
37 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman.

38
39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

40
41 MS. GARZA: I'm not sure that we finished 6(D), the
42 Federal Subsistence Board restructuring, we took a break during
43 the middle of that last night.

44
45 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, that's true. Sorry about that.
46 Ida, was your item the next one? Are you going to do the
47 memorandum -- well, let's hear the memorandum right now and
48 we'll come back to this other one. I already got it turned, my
49 mistake, I apologize. Sorry about that.

50

0079

1 MS. HILDEBRAND: Hello. I'm Ida Hildebrand. Staff
2 Committee member, BIA for the Federal Subsistence Board and I'm
3 here to give the subsistence management update on the MOA.
4 It's in Tab F, I believe.

5
6 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: F, that's the one.
7

8 MS. HILDEBRAND: Okay. In January, the Board supported
9 the goal of improved coordination and cooperation between the
10 Federal system and the State system in the subsistence program.
11 And their directive to the Staff was to continue discussions.
12 And as a result, a task force was formed with four people from
13 ADF&G and four people from Federal agencies. The ADF&G people
14 were Elizabeth Andrews from Division of Subsistence, Steve
15 Peterson from Wildlife Conservation, Paul Larson from
16 Commercial Fisheries, Gary Sanders from Sports Fisheries. The
17 Federal agency people were Peggy Fox from BLM, Sandy
18 Rabinowitch from Park Service, Ken Thompson from Forest Service
19 and Greg Bos from Fish and Wildlife, the State liaison person
20 in that office.

21
22 The idea of a MOA started a long time ago, and each
23 agency had originally developed some kind of an MOA or MOU with
24 the State, but I believe those died on the vine and weren't
25 really being observed or weren't being totally observed. So
26 the discussions were basically, what are we going to do and how
27 can we do this. There was correspondence in February and March
28 from Commissioner Rue to, I think Dave Allen, that was
29 previously presented to the Councils and asked for their input.
30 And at one of the Council meetings, I think it was the
31 Chair/Board Council meeting, that I believe you attended in
32 Anchorage, you, meaning you, Mr. Chairman, the Councils stated
33 that they wanted to be involved in the discussions. And they
34 aren't a member of that working group that is supposed to be
35 developing the framework or guidelines or how they would
36 proceed. However, they have met, they have discussed what they
37 want to do, what were the requests of ADF&G for involvement in
38 the Federal process, and it's still in discussion. A report
39 has yet to be made to the Staff Committee.

40 And the points that were supposed to be the points of
41 focus are in your Tab F. They're stated under the bullets,
42 clearer alignment with State and Federal proposal cycles.
43 Closer coordination with subsistence resource survey studies,
44 et cetera. Fish and Game Advisory Committee representation at
45 the Regional Council meetings. Increase ADF&G participation in
46 the preparation of reviews of proposal analysis. Involvement
47 of ADF&G representation at the Staff Committee meetings. And
48 the development of the State/Federal coordination plan.

49
50 That's.....

0080

1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: We're talking State division of
2 transfer.

3
4 MS. HILDEBRAND: That's basically my report. As I
5 said, it's still discussions.

6
7 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, is there any comment from the
8 Council with regard to this? What's the wish of the Council?

9
10 Dolly.

11
12 MS. GARZA: So looking at the actions that the working
13 group are considering, what's listed in this paper, can you
14 give me an idea whether or not an MOA actually will come out or
15 -- I guess to me it sort of looks like what the State is
16 requesting is pretty aggressive and my concern would be that
17 the subsistence protections may be jeopardized if the State can
18 sort of get in and muddle with this process?

19
20 MS. HILDEBRAND: As I said it's still in discussion.
21 The report of the working group has yet to go to the Staff
22 Committee. The Staff Committee will make recommendations to
23 the Board and the Board will definitely ask for the responses
24 and input of the Regional Councils and that's part of what
25 we're here to listen to today. If you have responses or if you
26 want to consider it and write responses, but it has yet to go
27 to the Staff Committee and yet to go to the Board.

28
29 MS. GARZA: And do you have any idea of time line for
30 that?

31
32 MS. HILDEBRAND: I believe it's scheduled in our next
33 Staff Committee meeting agenda for discussion. And generally,
34 when we discuss something it goes to the next Board meeting,
35 but I'm not sure about those -- if there's any definite time.

36
37 MS. GARZA: When are those scheduled for, about?

38
39 MS. HILDEBRAND: We're having a Staff Committee meeting
40 on the 10th of October.

41
42 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Are some of the members that you
43 mentioned on this planning, are they going to be at that Staff
44 Committee meeting?

45
46 MS. HILDEBRAND: The Federal agency people are members
47 of the Staff Committee, except for Greg Bos, he's not a member.
48 But he generally is in attendance if there's discussion on it.
49 I don't know whether the agency people -- ADF&G people have
50 been invited or not.

0081

1 MS. MEEHAN: Mr. Chairman, this Rosa Meehan with the
2 Office of Subsistence Management. And some scheduling items
3 that have come up really recently that Ida may not be aware of
4 is that the task force that is working on this idea of an MOA
5 is planning another meeting after the Councils have all had a
6 chance to meet and they will take all the Council input into
7 consideration in pursuing any of these ideas that are -- and
8 they are simply ideas that are listed in the briefing statement
9 that you have. And so any action by the Staff Committee or the
10 Board will happen after that meeting, so it will not be
11 happening in November.

12
13 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: The point I'm trying to get to.....

14
15 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah.

16
17 CHAIRMAN THOMAS:is that the people that are
18 doing these other writing and having their own meetings are
19 meeting without us in attendance to listen to their
20 discussions, but they have a chance to critique our input, we
21 don't know what they're going to do with it. See. They should
22 find some way for the members of the Council to be in
23 attendance at whatever happens at those other subsequent
24 meetings.

25
26 MS. MEEHAN: Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that the
27 intent of the process is that any recommendations would go to
28 the Board, and that the opportunity for Council discussion
29 would happen with the Board because the Board is very concerned
30 and very interested in the -- very concerned and interested in
31 input from the Councils. And so that's what they're looking
32 for.

33
34 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: But you're missing my point. Suppose
35 we chose not to discuss this today, there'd be some
36 disappointed people here, see, now, this is the point I'm
37 trying to make. Not that we wouldn't do it, but that's
38 hypothetical. What I'm saying is, we don't have -- we never
39 have the opportunity to be in on anybody else's meeting, they
40 take our input and do whatever they want with it. We don't
41 have the background or the interaction that happens when they
42 come to a conclusion to make a recommendation, see.

43
44 I don't think that's going to change, I'm just
45 mentioning to you that that doesn't go unnoticed.

46
47 Elizabeth, I see you raising your hand there.

48
49 MS. ANDREWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted
50 to mention as Ida mentioned, I am a member of that working

0082

1 group and Gary Sanders is also, we have four people from the
2 State who are involved in trying to improve the coordinations
3 with the State and the Federal program and there's four people
4 from the Federal program, three of whom are on the Staff
5 Committee. Right now, we've only had one meeting and that was
6 in late July. And at this point we're trying to first look at
7 what are some ways that we can improve the coordination in
8 terms of advisory committee schedules, Board schedules and so
9 forth so that people can have the full range of information,
10 both under the State system and the Federal system.

11
12 We're also trying, at this point, to identify things
13 that we can just take care of internally that just have to do
14 with Staff talking with each other more and finding out about
15 schedules. One thing we're looking at that was mentioned here
16 is looking at having just the handy-dandy regulation book, that
17 will have all State and Federal ones in a single booklet so
18 that people don't have to be flipping back and forth through
19 two of them. Those are just things that we can do internally
20 to improve things.

21
22 Also in this process we hope to identify then what
23 might be the kinds of things that would be appropriate in a
24 formal memorandum of agreement. And a lot of stuff we might be
25 able to just improve our interaction without having to have a
26 formal agreement and then it will get down to the nuts and
27 bolts of an agreement, which is going to have the full review
28 of the Federal Board, the Staff Committee and the Council
29 involvement. So we've just had one meeting and we're just
30 trying to do a sorting process at this point and prioritize
31 things that we think could help improve the situation.

32
33 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. I have another question.
36 I see you got joint production of regulation booklet and other
37 public informational material. I'm wondering how those would
38 be compatible in the same binder with the philosophies so
39 different. The Federal government right now recognizes a rural
40 preference and the State doesn't. So I'm wondering how a
41 booklet like that would work.

42
43 MS. ANDREWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, that's
44 the type of thing that we'd have to make clear in any kind of
45 publication which would get reviewed both with the Federal
46 program and the State. But we clearly understand, you know,
47 different mandates that each agency and organization is working
48 under and that would have to be clear in any kind of joint
49 publications, there's no doubt about that.

50

0083

1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: As a person that gets a lot of
2 material from different agencies, I don't think that would go
3 anywheres to clarify anything. They would say, why would these
4 two contrasts be in the same binder. I mean that's where
5 people are going to get stuck, and to think otherwise, I think
6 isn't very wise.

7
8 MS. ANDREWS: Well, we appreciate that comment and I'm
9 sure this record is going to get back to the full working
10 group. One of the ideas that we had talked about, initially,
11 when this came up is that both the State as well as the Federal
12 staff, our role is to provide adequate information to the
13 public. And with the mission of providing the best service and
14 the most efficient that we can to the public, we're trying to
15 look at ways of duplicating some of the things that we're
16 involved in and streamlining the process.

17
18 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, are charge is to provide
19 subsistence opportunities, see, and everything else is
20 collateral. Everything else falls in part of the process. But
21 our main goal is to provide subsistence opportunity.

22
23 MS. ANDREWS: That's correct.

24
25 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Mim.

26
27 MS. McCONNELL: Yeah. I just wanted to say that I
28 appreciate the efforts here of trying to have the State and
29 Federal people working together. It looks to me like this
30 could go on for another year the way things are and it's -- the
31 less confusion, the better. And the more communication the
32 better. And I just wanted to say that I appreciate what you're
33 trying to do and encourage more getting back to us and keeping
34 us updated and definitely keep us a part of the dialogue as
35 much as possible. And I guess that's all.

36
37 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

38
39 MS. GARZA: I guess I'm a bit more skeptical than you,
40 Mim. I guess in looking at these points, such as the Fish and
41 Game Advisory Committee representation at Regional Council
42 meetings. A Fish and Game Advisory Committee can be at any
43 meeting that is -- I mean the whole Yakutat Fish and Game
44 Advisory Committee can be here if they want. And so I'm not
45 sure that that needs to be stated as a mandate. Fish and Game
46 participation in the preparation and/or review of proposals. I
47 think that if Fish and Game had the money to do that, they
48 ought to hire some more subsistence people and finish the TRUC
49 survey. I mean that's a lot of money to be involved in that
50 process, and I don't see the reciprocal. I don't see Tongass

0084

1 or Department of Interior being involved with the Board of Fish
2 or the Board of Game or the Guide Board process. So I don't
3 see any sort of reciprocating of responsibilities there.

4
5 In terms of developing a State/Federal coordination
6 plan that will guide subsistence management planning efforts, I
7 think that gets into the issue that Bill brought up. Is that,
8 for the State, subsistence is not a priority and if you put the
9 two together, I think it will, in my opinion, decrease the
10 value of subsistence. I don't see where that could work at
11 all. I think the process that we have now works well. I think
12 the State has the opportunity to participate and I would hate
13 to see the State sort of weasel its way in, excuse that term,
14 because they would like to protect commercial, recreational and
15 guided sport interests in this process.

16
17 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Dolly. That's very true.
18 One of the reasons that I really immerse myself in this process
19 was because of what I saw in ANILCA, no place else. ANILCA
20 spells it all out. And anything to change the approach to
21 satisfying those requirements, I think would dilute the
22 effectiveness or would have the appearance of diluting. And
23 with the opposition that we have in the State to subsist right
24 now -- and the State, itself, hasn't really embraced
25 subsistence. They've got too many riders in their proposals to
26 subsistence. And I don't find it easy to embrace these
27 concepts that are listed here.

28
29 So those are my feelings. Patti.

30
31 MS. PHILLIPS: I agree with what's been said here. But
32 I want to talk about a positive aspect that I see of ADF&G. We
33 filled out our deer harvest survey and we got the results of
34 our deer harvest survey and then in the letter concerning our
35 deer harvest survey it told me that I could go to the world
36 wide web and read 66 pages of the report concerning deer
37 population and harvest, and you can go to the world wide web
38 and you can read that 66 pages of deer population surveys.
39 That is the kind of information that I need concerning
40 subsistence harvest on Federal lands in Southeast Alaska. That
41 is a part of the aspect that's working and I want to continue
42 to work.

43
44 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Further comments.

45
46 MS. McCONNELL: Mr. Chairman.

47
48 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Mim.

49
50 MS. McCONNELL: Is it fair to assume that from the

0085

1 Federal viewpoint that you all take on the Staff Committee,
2 that you are keeping in mind the protection of subsistence
3 priority? That you're looking out for that.

4
5 MS. HILDEBRAND: I certainly am personally committed to
6 it. I cannot speak for the Staff Committee, except to say that
7 they are very open minded and in my experience have been very
8 aware of concerns and I do voice that concern at every
9 opportunity.

10
11 MS. McCONNELL: And when the recommendations go to the
12 Board later, the Council members, you know, Bill will be there
13 and maybe Dolly and Fred and other representatives of other
14 Councils, and we'll have an opportunity to voice their opinion
15 and recommend changes and that kind of thing at that time: is
16 that correct?

17
18 MS. HILDEBRAND: I don't know the particulars of how
19 that will go, but I know for sure that the Board isn't going to
20 make a decision without consultation with the Regional
21 Councils. And that this information that you're giving now in
22 your testimony or your statements is on the record and will be
23 presented and any additional comments, I'm sure the Board would
24 direct the Staff Committee or the Staff to specify what the
25 Councils are saying before any decision is made to consider all
26 the statements of the Councils.

27
28 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John.

29
30 MR. VALE: Mr. Chairman, I agree with what's been said
31 here so far so I question the need for an MOU. I'm certainly
32 willing to see how the process unfolds and see what becomes of
33 it. But to follow-up on Patti's comments there, I'd like to
34 pose a question to Bob Schroeder on Item 2 here; closer
35 coordination of subsistence resource surveys and studies and
36 improved information exchange between agencies. Bob, is there
37 room for improvement there and would you like to comment on
38 that?

39
40 MR. SCHROEDER: This is Bob Schroeder, Division of
41 Subsistence. I suppose there's always room for improvement.
42 We work real well with the people who are dealing with
43 subsistence on the Federal level. In Southeast, as you know,
44 Forest Service is the lead agency, and what we're working on
45 is, this is getting back to the issue that was discussed
46 earlier, is figuring out a way to ensure that new data are
47 collected such that the Council or anyone making a management
48 decision has a set of objective facts on the table on which a
49 decision can be based. So right now, from my perspective,
50 that's a real bottleneck in getting information across.

0086

1 There's some other areas that, you know, we deal with
2 with Federal Staff that definitely could be improved. Another
3 area has to do with, that we haven't discussed with the Council
4 previously, is the use of maps and map data. and I know a
5 number of people on the Council are engaged in their
6 communities in projects of showing which subsistence areas are
7 important and what the relative importance of different
8 subsistence areas might be. I don't think that we're at a
9 point where there are disagreements or protocol items that
10 hamper the sharing of information. But I think that we all
11 could do better with our work and obviously we need support
12 from our home organizations to do this. And perhaps, this gets
13 back to some things that were discussed earlier in this
14 meeting. The support that the Council gives to Staff to enable
15 us to do our job is really useful because quite often the
16 subsistence component of either the Federal agency or the State
17 agency is, at best, the tail and the dog sort of takes us
18 wherever they want to take us.

19
20 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: What now? Say that again?

21
22 MR. SCHROEDER: I was just trying for a little bit of
23 levity, Mr. Chairman.

24
25 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, with all due respect to the
26 State and we've been involved with you guys for a long time,
27 personally, I wouldn't trade you for anything, professionally,
28 I'm not so sure about that. Not because it's your fault, just
29 because of virtue of politics. And you know, ANILCA is a
30 legislation that's been in existence since 1980, it was 10
31 years old before it was implemented. And people in the State
32 government knew about ANILCA, but still there was no effort to
33 introduce any parts of that legislation until after the Feds
34 took over. And now we see this anxious energy used to be a
35 part of that process, when philosophically, the State doesn't
36 embrace any part of ANILCA. And I think by virtue of that, my
37 personal reaction to this would be that I wouldn't be able to,
38 personally, support a memorandum. I will, however, take the
39 guidance from the Council to the Board, whichever they decide
40 to do.

41
42 So with that, that will conclude my comments and I will
43 give the Council as much time as they need.

44
45 Mim.

46
47 MS. McCONNELL: I had one more question about number
48 three on the list there, the Fish and Game Advisory Committee
49 representation at Regional Council meetings. I'm just curious
50 why that's on there? Is there -- and I guess this would be

0087

1 directed to the State, is there funding available for Advisory
2 Committee chairpersons to come to our meetings? Are they -- if
3 somebody from a community says, I want to go to the Regional
4 Council meeting in Yakutat, would the funding be available for
5 them to travel to this meeting at this time?

6
7 MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Chairman, Ms. McConnell, I can't
8 really answer that because that's the Board Support section
9 that deals with that specific question and how they handle the
10 individual requests such as you described, I'm not sure what
11 the policy is at the moment. I know in the past that when they
12 have gotten requests because there have been a few, they have
13 provided funding for people to go. What we're looking at here
14 and the reasons that this is on here is both, from an interest
15 on the Federal part as well as from the State. The Federal
16 interest is that in part of the operations manual of the
17 Regional Council, it speaks to having advisory councils as
18 being a part of the Council system, and to date, in a
19 formalized way, and even somewhat of informal way, that that
20 hasn't occurred. And so it's a topic of discussion because
21 it's still something that hasn't been addressed. And whether
22 it's something that more effort should be put towards or
23 something that should fall by the wayside, it's on there as a
24 placeholder to make a decision about which way are we going to
25 go because it's been in that manual.

26
27 From the State side it has to do with the requests that
28 we do get from individual committee members asking about that.
29 And we also get concerns from State Board of Game
30 representatives who are interested, you know, is there some way
31 that our advisory committees can feed into this process better.
32 So that's why it's on there.

33
34 MS. MCCONNELL: Yeah. I would like to encourage some
35 way of improving increasing advisory committee participation in
36 our process. There's been times when it would have been
37 wonderful if some people from that community that's, you know,
38 maybe someone in Unit 4 and we're having our meeting here in
39 Yakutat, if the advisory committee chairs could be attending
40 the Regional Council meeting, could help us in deliberations
41 and making decisions about their area, maybe it's under
42 represented on the Council and we need people with more
43 information on that area. And having been an advisory chair
44 person in the past, it's really an important part of this whole
45 process and it's missing in this Council. Their participation
46 is missed. So I would encourage the development of improving
47 the access, whatever is necessary to increase it.

48
49 I think also there's -- I don't think people understand
50 how this -- how important this Council is in Southeast. There

0088

1 is so much land that is Federally held and I don't think people
2 understand how important it is for them to be involved with
3 this Council and what it's doing. I don't -- so I think that
4 awareness needs to be built into this somehow. I think we need
5 to help people realize that, hey, they're messing with your
6 backyard here, you need to get involved, you know. So thank
7 you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Now, does the State have a
10 subsistence advisory committee? What advisory committee are
11 they -- subsistence advisory? If the State did have a person
12 represented here, would that come from a State subsistence
13 advisory committee?

14
15 MR. ANDREWS: It would -- it would be, as far as I
16 know, and the coordinators maybe have a better handle on this
17 is it would be from the State Advisory Committee system because
18 that's what's identified as being the advisory committee
19 component to the Regional Council system. I'm seeing nods from
20 the Federal Staff, so I'm.....

21
22 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: But would they be bringing their
23 input from a subsistence point of view? Would they be
24 representing the subsistence users? Yes? No? I don't know?

25
26 MS. ANDREWS: Well, Mr. Chairman, the group hasn't even
27 gotten that far and I think that's a worthwhile comment that
28 should be taken, you know, to our group and will, again, by
29 virtue of this record, that there should be some provision that
30 as that develops, that it would be a subsistence user
31 representatives.

32
33 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: And with regard to Mim's comments,
34 where they're getting the information at.

35
36 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: As far as I'm concerned, Ketchikan
37 never had an advisory committee because I haven't got any
38 information from them and whatever their existence might have
39 been. So I'm not sure how that would improve. Is this a group
40 that makes a lot of efforts to get information out when they do
41 business or what?

42
43 MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Chairman, I can't speak again for the
44 Board Support section. I just wanted to emphasize that we are
45 trying to look at this as a two way street. And that if, you
46 know, to have some involvement with the committees with the
47 Councils, we would also like to see the committees have some
48 involvement from the Councils at committee meetings.

49
50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, you know, we got a system here

0089

1 that's recognized by everybody involved in the process that's
2 working very well. I don't know that we have the energy to
3 jump start another system that died on the vine or that is
4 barely treading water. And that's kind of what's happening
5 now. And again, due to politics. So I don't know that it
6 would be wise to drain the energies from a successful process
7 into something that isn't quite sure of the direction they're
8 taking. And if they are sure of the direction they're taking,
9 it doesn't embrace the provisions of ANILCA. So those are some
10 of the things we have to consider.

11
12 Dolly.

13
14 MS. GARZA: I guess just as a comment, you know, I mean
15 I think there is a good informal relationship, at least, in
16 some of the communities. I know that I go back and I go to the
17 Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Council and I report on the major
18 things that we've done. As an example, last year when the big
19 issue was deer, the Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Council,
20 myself, Sitka Tribe and Forest Service pulled together a task
21 force. We pulled together a proposal that we submitted. You
22 guys all slammed it, but we did the work anyway, and so I think
23 that can be done. But I think your comment was a good one, is
24 that, if there is somebody from the fish and game advisory
25 council it should be the subsistence representative.

26
27 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John.

28
29 MR. VALE: Just a brief follow-up comment.

30
31 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

32
33 MR. VALE: With regards to the advisory committees, I
34 believe they have the opportunity to participate in this
35 system. And just looking at our own fish and game advisory
36 committee here in Yakutat, I know that we've provided comments
37 and recommendations on quite a number of proposals that are in
38 front of this body. And you know, that -- so you know, the
39 committees are there and I think they have that opportunity to,
40 you know, approach us, either personally, you know, physically
41 or through letters. And I welcome that, I think the advisory
42 committees are an important part of the process and the
43 information they have to share with us is important and that we
44 should hear it as we should hear from all the various aspects
45 of the public. And so that's just my comment, I think they do
46 have an opportunity to participate, for whatever reason, that
47 has been lacking, and you know, maybe we need to work with the
48 advisory committees to try and encourage them to more fully
49 utilize this.

50

0090

1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Gabe.

2

3 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think when
4 we're looking at this part of the report and all, I think we
5 need to keep in mind that, I believe there are three basic
6 areas that we're looking at and one is regulations and the
7 amount of information going out to the public. And the
8 regulations are created by the Board of Fish, Board of Game and
9 the Subsistence Board. And that information needs to get out
10 to the public, and the public includes subsistence users,
11 sports users and other users and all. And that information
12 needs to be in a package that is readable and understandable
13 and I think that's one of the areas that they're trying to
14 address in the recommendations from the task force so that
15 people are aware of what the sports -- you know, take for
16 instance, the regulations in the Wrangell area on moose. We
17 addressed that back when and talked about antler size and
18 everything else and what the season is and what the bag limit
19 is. Now, the public out there is sport hunters and subsistence
20 hunters. And if there is an area where the seasons are
21 different, then it should be in one package of information or
22 one -- you know, one place that you can go to and recognize
23 that. I think that the user, whether they be subsistence or
24 sports, need to know which areas are open and which areas are
25 closed. And if some subsistence hunter's hunting in one area
26 and somebody -- well, anyway, I think all the information needs
27 to be available.

28

29 So I think that in terms of information that's one set
30 of information that we're looking at. The other type of
31 information we're trying to pull together are quantitative
32 information from research that is being conducted by the Forest
33 Service and Fish and Game. And I think sharing that
34 information is critical to our making some decisions and the
35 same with the State. The State, obviously is -- I mean we're
36 working on subsistence regulations and the State works on
37 resource information and sports and commercial. But the
38 information they gather is critical for our making decisions
39 and moving proposals forward or watching them die on the vine
40 or whatever, combined with local information. But that
41 information is something that we need to encourage and
42 cooperate and coordinate with the State and the Forest Service
43 and I think that's what they're trying to do if I understand it
44 correctly.

45

46 I do know that some of the information that there is,
47 like some of the points that were brought out was in terms of
48 advisory committee attendance and all that. I think that some
49 of those things are good ideas, but probably ideas that
50 probably won't move forward because of lack of funding. I

0091

1 don't know if the State's going to, like you said, provide
2 monies for advisory committees to attend Regional Council
3 meetings in Yakutat or any place else. So that I think that's
4 some of the things that were put down here were good ideas that
5 may or may not move forward depending on money. The same with
6 everything else that's put down there. But due to lack of
7 funds, both in the State and the Federal government, there
8 needs to be some cooperation and coordination of the
9 information and the information coming in and the information
10 going out. I think that was the attempt and I applaud that. I
11 don't think some of it will move forward, but you know, money
12 and time will tell, I guess.

13
14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: That sounds like pretty good Advisory
15 Committee comments to me. Those are typical comments you hear
16 from the State. Mim.

17
18 MS. McCONNELL: Thanks. Yeah, I just wanted to comment
19 that back under the old system, the Regional Council would meet
20 before the Board of Fish meeting, we would get together like a
21 day before or the day that the Board of Fish meeting started
22 and that tended to bring -- because it was fisheries topics,
23 that really tended to bring the advisory committee chairs
24 together and that was always a good time to call a Regional
25 Council meeting. People tended to turn out for that one. When
26 the system changed, the Regional Councils got started up again
27 and it's like the advisory committees, because this is setup
28 differently, it's not all 22 communities, it's 13 representing
29 the whole region, it's like it's a different emphasis. And so
30 it didn't incorporate all of those Regional Councils
31 individually anymore. It's just a different outlook.

32
33 So I'm not sure how you could reconcile those
34 differences, but I just wanted to point that out that, I don't
35 know, if we were talking about fisheries issues, you might get
36 more advisory committee chairman's saying, I want to go to that
37 meeting. It tends to effect their pocket a little bit more.

38
39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, those are all good comments,
40 but you know, when I made myself familiar with ANILCA, I really
41 embraced the language, the content, the intent of ANILCA
42 because I saw that it was real good legislation. And up to now
43 I really haven't found very many flaws in the system. So my
44 energies right now, hopefully you understand, are really
45 focused and directed on the good success of the provisions of
46 ANILCA. And I haven't seen anything in these actions or the
47 working group that's working on that would really enhance
48 ANILCA or any provisions of ANILCA.

49
50 So these are some of the things I'm concerned about.

0092

1 You like that list?

2

3 MS. ANDREWS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Council
4 members. I mean this is really useful because there's such
5 variation across the State with the different Councils. And
6 just as you mentioned, that needs to be brought to the working
7 group, what the specific concerns or you know, issues that you
8 have or direction you'd like to see things go relative to the
9 discussions and it is, it's real different with each of the
10 Council. And that's why it's on the agenda for each one of the
11 Council meetings and they're taking comments from each of the
12 10 Councils to take back to our working group.

13

14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15

16 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Is this compensation mode for the
17 good information that we get from the department now with
18 relative to the tunes of maps and data and this kind of thing?
19 Because when we first started, one of the first things we saw
20 was an armload of maps and information that the department
21 brought to us and they proved very successful. That was the
22 one big thing, I think that did enhance to do something with
23 ANILCA. Because there was all this good information there and
24 most of it very recent. There's some information that isn't
25 very recent, but it's more than what the Feds have and we
26 appreciate that.

27

28 But I do have a selfish side of me. I want just the
29 good parts and I don't want anything else to make me miserable.

30

31 Further comments.

32

33 MS. WILSON: I'd like to ask a question, Mr. Chairman.

34

35 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Sure.

36

37 MS. WILSON: Marilyn Wilson. All of this MOA with the
38 Federal and the State, what's going to happen with us after the
39 State takes over management of all Federal lands and stuff, if
40 this happens? Will all this be moot?

41

42 MS. ANDREWS: Mr. Chairman, Ms. Wilson, our view is
43 that dual managements is here to stay. Whether subsistence
44 management is in the Federal agencies or with the State agency,
45 there's still going to be dual management and interests. We
46 don't see us going back to a 1989 style of management. And you
47 know, we're trying to be forward looking and if the State were
48 to resume management again, there's a lot of coordination and
49 involvement of the Federal programs that we hadn't had in the
50 past that we would definitely have to have in the future. So

0093

1 we're trying to look at this as for the long-term, regardless
2 of which entity may have subsistence management authority in
3 rural areas.

4
5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I have to offer one more reminder. I
6 got a recent mail out from the Governor's office showing the
7 results of their task force meetings this summer. And there
8 wasn't a single item on their findings that would enhance
9 ANILCA, in fact, everything they came up with jeopardized
10 ANILCA in one form or another, and to me that wasn't very
11 inviting or attractive.

12
13 And so I'm going to use a lot of energy to make sure we
14 avoid that. Any other comments? What's the wish of the
15 Council?

16
17 MS. GARZA: Coffee.

18
19 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Coffee break. Caucus, two minutes.

20
21 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman -- Bill, could I make a quick
22 announcement?

23
24 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You already did you said coffee
25 break.

26
27 MS. GARZA: Before that.

28
29 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

30
31 MS. GARZA: Okay. Sitka Tribe and myself are working
32 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to do a traditional
33 knowledge survey for estimating the growth rate of sea otters
34 in Southeast. Marty -- or Wade Martin, can you raise your hand
35 Marty, is here to assist with that survey and we'd like to
36 cover people in Yakutat, particularly, and we know that some
37 people are gone because of the unfortunate deaths in the last
38 couple of days. But anybody who is here, whether you're with
39 Parks or Fish and Game or a local resident, if you have some
40 information and you'd like to share it with us, we sure would
41 appreciate spending a few minutes with you. Also, if any of
42 you on the Council would like to give us some information from
43 your region, we'd love to survey you also.

44
45 Thank you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Before, I want to thank Ida for your
48 report and Elizabeth for her insights and observations and for
49 your assistance on this last issue, thank you. Let's fill your
50 coffee cups.

0094

1 (Off record)

2 (On record)

3

4 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, Council you got before you --
5 we finished our discussion regarding Item 6(E), task force
6 report on State Memorandum of Agreement. We've had a
7 presentation, we've asked questions, we've made comments. Now,
8 what's the wish of the Council?

9

10 MS. GARZA: Which one?

11

12 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: The memorandum, 6(E), I think. No
13 wishes for this item, do we move on?

14

15 MS. GARZA: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, I'm still
16 munching.

17

18 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Um-hum.

19

20 MS. GARZA: I guess my understanding from Ida was that
21 this information would go back to the body who's working on
22 this and then something would come back to the Board -- or
23 through the Staff, to the Board and back to us and so we don't
24 necessarily need to submit anything until then. But that was
25 assuming that these comments do, through the record, go to
26 them.

27

28 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: But I don't look for these comments
29 to change, I don't look for anything to change between now and
30 then and they probably won't. If anything they'll get worse.
31 So do you want to wait until then?

32

33 MS. WILSON: Wait until when?

34

35 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Until then. I don't know when that's
36 going to be.

37

38 MR. GEORGE: It was 23 days, now it's a year and 23
39 days.

40

41 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: The Chair will entertain a motion to
42 not support the MOU. Nobody wants to make it? Mary. Mary
43 moves that we don't support the MOU, is there a second? No
44 second?

45

46 MS. McCONNELL: Are you talking about the memorandum of
47 agreement?

48

49 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yes.

50

0095

1 MS. McCONNELL: That we just got a report on?

2

3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yes. No second. Dies for a lack of
4 a second. We'll move on to 6(F), backlog. C&T backlog update.
5 Rachel.

6

7 MR. VALE: Mr. Chairman.

8

9 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yes.

10

11 MR. VALE: There's going to be some individuals here to
12 testify on these proposals and they're going to be in by 3:00
13 o'clock, so I'd ask that we defer this until after 3:00.

14

15 MS. MASON: Are you referring to the -- not these
16 proposals, but I'm going to be talking about the backlog
17 proposals as a whole.

18

19 MR. VALE: Okay.

20

21 MS. MASON: I'm just referring to them in passing. But
22 in my next item I will be asking for information about them.

23

24 MR. VALE: Yeah.

25

26 MS. MASON: And so I would support waiting until the
27 individuals arrive.

28

29 MR. VALE: Okay.

30

31 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Mim.

32

33 MS. McCONNELL: Didn't we still need to do something on
34 the Board restructuring thing? Didn't we need to decide on
35 that? I mean we never really -- we never finished that item
36 yet.

37

38 MS. WILSON: No.

39

40 MS. McCONNELL: Item D.

41

42 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Just wait, Rachel, it's my screw up
43 on here. See when we can't follow our agenda, this is kind of
44 what happens, we got three more deferrals -- let's go back to
45 restructuring, where were we? We're still discussing options
46 one, two or three.

47

48 What's the wish of the Council? You got more
49 discussion? Do you have discussion without the intent of
50 action or you got discussion with action? We're moving back up

0096

1 one to D -- 6(D) on the agenda.

2
3 MS. McCONNELL: Mr. Chairman.

4
5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Mim.

6
7 MS. McCONNELL: I've got a question. I'm just
8 wondering why the microphone went back up to the podium? Was
9 that a problem with sound?

10
11 COURT REPORTER: No.

12
13 MS. MASON: No, I put it up there because I wanted to
14 use it when I was giving my report.

15
16 MS. McCONNELL: Oh, for your chart, okay. I think it
17 works better, generally, down here.

18
19 MS. MASON: Yeah.

20
21 MS. McCONNELL: Okay.

22
23 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yeah. Next time move your flip chart
24 to the middle. What's the wish with Board restructuring?

25
26 MS. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I have a question.

27
28 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Question.

29
30 MS. WILSON: On this restructuring, how long do we have
31 before we can make a recommendation? Do we have a time limit,
32 I've forgotten what that was?

33
34 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I think you have forever. It's only
35 a recommendation.

36
37 MS. WILSON: Okay.

38
39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yeah, Sue. It's kind of like the
40 memorandum of agreement.

41
42 MS. DETWILER: I think the task force was planning on
43 reconvening after the Regional Councils met. So the task force
44 is going to meet after this round of Regional Council meetings
45 and they'll discuss whatever comments do come from the
46 Councils.

47
48 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, thank you. So when will that
49 be, October/November?

50

0097

1 MS. DETWILER: Sometime then, yeah.

2
3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: That's going to happen when also.

4
5 MS. WILSON: So that's next year or this year?

6
7 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: It's when, I don't know. Probably in
8 November -- probably when in November.

9
10 MS. WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

11
12 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Marilyn.

13
14 MS. WILSON: I think if we discuss it and bring it up
15 to a vote right now it's going to take a lot of time.

16
17 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Your wish is my command. You guys
18 want to discuss it, feel free. Gabe.

19
20 MR. GEORGE: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I move that we adopt
21 number two of the option, the existing Board plus at least one
22 Regional Council Chair nominated by the Regional Council Chairs
23 and appointed by the Secretary of Interior with concurrence of
24 the Secretary of Agriculture.

25
26 MS. WILSON: I second that.

27
28 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You heard the motion. Moved and.....

29
30 MS. GARZA: Second.

31
32 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Moved and seconded.

33
34 MR. NICKERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'm a little leery,
35 I've been -- I'm real new to this here, but on all the reading
36 I've done I was really surprised that, to me, it seemed like
37 the system was working and for us to take option number two and
38 any action we take on this Board and the Board takes action on
39 it -- I'm sorry, on this Council and then the Board takes
40 action on it has the possibility of being challenged. Is that
41 the way I understand the implications on there?

42
43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Um-hum.

44
45 MR. NICKERSON: Okay. I would speak against the
46 motion. And I never had a chance to say it yesterday, but I do
47 support number one also.

48
49 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Further discussion on the motion?

50

0098

1 MR. VALE: Mr. Chairman.

2
3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John.

4
5 MR. VALE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would speak against
6 the motion as well. In my observations of the Federal process
7 I see it living up to the intent of ANILCA, and the various
8 aspects of ANILCA. And so I think the system is working well
9 and I'm opposed to the motion. I think if it's not broke,
10 don't fix it.

11
12 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Further comments, discussion on the
13 motion. Dolly.

14
15 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, I would speak in favor of the
16 motion. While the system is not broken, I guess, in my opinion
17 it was put together several years back with the thought that it
18 may only be temporary until the State reestablished a rural
19 preference and it went back to State management. And so I
20 don't think it was the intent of the Federal government that
21 that would be the final makeup of that Board and it was my
22 understanding that they are looking at options. And so I don't
23 see that this is necessarily a bad one.

24
25 In my opinion, I think that it would be very important
26 to have someone who represents the Regional Councils there. I
27 guess when I attended the meeting last year, the impression I
28 got of Mitch, who I think is a very good person, I have a lot
29 of respect for him, but he seemed to try and represent sort of
30 the agency interests coming out. And I think that if we had
31 this additional person they could represent the Regional
32 Council people going in. I guess my opinion is if there were
33 some serious legal issue and it had the consequence of
34 undermining this whole system, I doubt that the Federal
35 Subsistence Board undertake it. They would report back to us
36 that there is a problem and we would address it then. But I
37 think to simply say, we do not want one of our own people on
38 there is kind of crazy.

39
40 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Further discussion. Patti.

41
42 MS. PHILLIPS: I support the motion. There's a note on
43 number two that says, this is the recommendation forwarded by
44 the Regional Council Chairs at the April 1997 Board Regional
45 Council Chair work session. I've been on this Council from the
46 beginning and we've had discussions concerning the Federal
47 Subsistence Board makeup from the very beginning. So there's
48 been concerns on this very issue from then to now. And I think
49 to have one of our Regional Council people at the table with
50 the Federal Subsistence Board able to provide dialogue with

0099

1 that Board will further the subsistence issue.

2
3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John.

4
5 MR. VALE: Yes. Mr. Chairman, I think in the Federal
6 Subsistence Board hearings that I've attended, I've seen the
7 various Regional Council Chairs or their representatives, you
8 know, in the room, not at the table but at an adjoining table
9 and I've found the Federal Board to be very receptive to their
10 comments and concerns and with ample opportunity for those
11 Regional Councils to interact with the Federal Board. So all
12 that would really be gained in my view by putting a Regional
13 Council person on the Federal Board is to have a vote. And I
14 guess I just feel that that vote is not necessary because there
15 is adequate opportunity for the Councils to express their
16 concerns and interests in the program. And then additionally,
17 if we had one Regional Council there -- we have 10 Regional
18 Councils throughout the State and I can't see one Regional
19 Council Chair be knowledgeable enough about the existing uses
20 all around the State to adequately, you know, be able to
21 provide the necessary information there. I don't see someone
22 from the Northwest being able to comment on what's going on in
23 Southeast. So I guess I just feel like, you know, the present
24 system is adequate.

25
26 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Gabe.

27
28 MR. GEORGE: I believe that the system is working
29 better than what we had. But to compare one to the other is
30 comparing apples and oranges and all. To say that the system
31 is a great system and doesn't need improvement, then I don't
32 know why we're sitting around here, they can carry out
33 everything that's going on. But I think that we can always
34 improve. I think that the intent of the Federal government,
35 first of all, with the Advisory Committees -- the State didn't
36 want advisory committees when they first got into fish and game
37 management. It was required that the State have local fish and
38 game advisory committees to advise, you know, the Boards of
39 Fish and Game, they're made up of local people also. And local
40 people, sovereignty, whether it's tribal sovereignty, State
41 sovereignty, local control and all, I believe there's been some
42 work done on management from afar or, you know, in all, that
43 may work, may be quite happy with it. But I think that people
44 from Alaska and, no, there isn't any super manager, there isn't
45 any one person, one man or woman that is all knowing that can
46 handle everything that goes on in the State of Alaska. No one
47 ever said that there was. But we do know that we know our
48 resources, and that we have our resources in our hearts, that's
49 why we're here. And we have input, it's advisory. And now we
50 have an opportunity to have somebody there who actually has a

00100

1 vote and we don't want it? I question that judgment.

2

3 And I speak in favor of the motion and I thank those
4 that did. And I certainly believe that this motion that I made
5 doesn't meet what I said yesterday. What I said yesterday, you
6 know, didn't talk about one vote on the Board, so you know,
7 what I should have said -- the motion I should have made was,
8 you know, that the Council -- or the Board be made up of all
9 the chairpersons of the Regional Councils, then those that view
10 this as something way out in left or right field would say,
11 hey, number two sounds really good, I'd vote for that, rather
12 than what Gabe's trying to do, you know. So in terms of
13 reasonability and having a vote and a real voice in the system,
14 I made the motion for number two. And if that isn't
15 reasonable, I don't know what is, but I do know what is not
16 reasonable and it's not having a voice, you know, and any vote
17 on the Board. Thank you.

18

19 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Mary.

20

21 MS. RUDOLPH: Mr. Chairman, the reason why I support
22 this, when I first looked at the book I made all my marks on
23 there and I agreed with number one because like they said, 90
24 percent of what we've brought forward as a Regional Council
25 have been voted on with a lot of our input put into it. And
26 the more I went into it, the more I liked what number two had
27 to say, similar to what I felt on the MOA -- on signing the
28 MOA. We really didn't go into discussion, but right now we
29 were almost willing to support it. So it's just like taking
30 one and not looking into the other one.

31

32 And another thing that comes to mind is when the
33 discussion on deer came up, you know, with Ketchikan and the
34 line that was put on some of the Council members because of the
35 anger that was brought out and Bill putting himself in the
36 position where he felt protective of the Council as a whole.
37 That comes to mind also because when you're talking about one
38 region speaking on behalf of -- I see more of our people coming
39 together and saying, well, it's almost -- I hate to keep going
40 from one thing to another, but I had a relative stop by the
41 house and wanted someone to be able to go to and say, well,
42 this is my concern, this is how I feel, and I think if possibly
43 we work with number two, you know, I think it won't expand it
44 out so much. And if it diminishes number one, you know, when
45 we went into number one it was all a new area that everybody
46 went into, the Federal and the Council and so it's been a
47 learning experience. So I think number two also, if we have a
48 Regional Council Chair in there, we'd be able to take out our
49 concerns and make sure those are followed up and make sure they
50 understand what direction we're going into. It doesn't say in

00101

1 the implications that it won't and it's not going to help, but
2 in the other -- the subsistence user argue that Board members
3 are neither sufficiently aware of or nor sensitive to
4 subsistence users needs. So that kind of broadens it a little
5 bit on number two.

6
7 So that's the reason why I'd have to support Gabriel's
8 proposal. Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. Further discussion.
11 John.

12
13 MR. FELLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know this
14 Council, I've been on it since the beginning. And I consider
15 we are always on the leading edge, so I think this is another
16 opportunity we have to shove on into the areas. I've also been
17 to some of the meetings in Anchorage where the Federal
18 Subsistence Board's been in operation. And I think there's a
19 lot of good consultation there and even one additional member
20 would have a lot of input and be able to possibly add some
21 different reflections or input into their consultation.

22
23 But on the other hand, the third option looks good to
24 me, too. But I speak in favor of Gabe's motion. Thank you.

25
26 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Marilyn.

27
28 MS. WILSON: I'm sitting here listening to all the
29 different views that our Council people have. I grew up more
30 or less thinking the vote is the all important thing in this
31 democracy, and for us to say that we don't want to have a vote
32 from our people, to have a working member on the Board is
33 ludicrous. It doesn't seem right because our ANB, which I've
34 been in for a long many years, which I'm a very staunch member
35 -- ANS, we were taught the vote was all important and the ANB
36 and ANS is the one that brought the Native vote to Alaska. And
37 being a Native, being a subsistence user, I think it's
38 important that we have one working member on that Board that
39 can vote. And if we think that the member doesn't know it all,
40 well, who does? Like Gabe said, who does? But we'd have that
41 member voted in by the other members of the Chairmans, the
42 Chairmans would vote him in. So what better way to get a
43 person in there, by his constituents voting him in.

44
45 I speak in favor of it. I can't see us arguing against
46 having a voting member in there. It doesn't seem logical, so
47 I'm really for this.

48
49 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. Further discussion.
50 Patti.

00102

1 MS. PHILLIPS: I was curious, most Boards and Councils
2 have an odd numbered membership because if there were a split
3 vote then the extra seat would put the vote to a decision. And
4 the existing Board is a six member board and by adding the, at
5 least, one Regional Council Chair then we would have the split
6 vote to make the decision.

7
8 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. Further comment. Jeff.

9
10 MR. NICKERSON: Yes. I agree with everyone on getting
11 the vote, but what I'm afraid of is that if we take action that
12 concerns, let's say the deer hunting on Prince of Wales Island,
13 we take action on that, it goes through the Board and they say,
14 okay, let's put it into effect and then it gets challenged in
15 court because there's one member on there that they couldn't
16 decide yesterday, I guess, whether or not they were a Federal
17 employee who was making regulations and that gets challenged.
18 That's what I'm concerned about. And as far as subsistence
19 users arguing that the Board members are neither sufficiently
20 aware of nor sensitive to subsistence users needs, if that
21 person is from Southeast Alaska, then this Board isn't doing
22 something right, we're not doing our job. We missed it
23 somewhere if somebody in Southeast Alaska that is unsatisfied
24 with the Board because if it concerns Southeast Alaska, this
25 Board should have went to the -- I'm sorry, this Council should
26 have went to the Board and said, hey, this is the way Southeast
27 Alaska feels about it, and make sure the people were
28 represented.

29
30 Thank you.

31
32 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. Further comments.

33
34 MR. FELLER: Call for the question, Mr. Chairman.

35
36 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Question's been called, all those in
37 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

38
39 IN UNISON: Aye.

40
41 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Those opposed same sign.

42
43 IN UNISON: Aye.

44
45 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: The ayes have it. The motion's
46 adopted. Okay, are you ready to backup, John?

47
48 MR. VALE: Sure.

49
50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, that brings us to reports (A)4,

00103

1 Wrangell-St. Elias. It is my distinct pleasure and honor to
2 present to you John Vale.

3
4 MR. VALE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the appointed
5 member to this body to the Wrangell-St. Elias Subsistence
6 Resource Commission, I'd like to take this opportunity to bring
7 you up to speed on what we've been doing over the last year.

8
9 First of all, I'd like to backup a little bit and talk
10 about many years past. I've been involved on the Commission
11 for about eight years now or better. And I felt for a long
12 time that we, as a Commission, were really not accomplishing
13 anything. We spent much of our time talking about issues that
14 never went anywhere with the Park Service and with the
15 Secretary's office. And I begin to question why I even wanted
16 to become involved with this Commission. But I'm pleased to
17 report that over the last few years there's been some real
18 positive changes. We're starting to move in a direction that's
19 beneficial to subsistence users in the Park. One of the good
20 things that has happened over the last year is the Commission
21 asked the Park Service staff -- well, when we've dealt with
22 issues over the years, whatever recommendations we as a
23 Commission came up with, if they were acted on and passed, then
24 you know, that body of regulations that managed subsistence was
25 called the Subsistence Hunting Plan. But there was never any
26 formal plan that was organized in some fashion that anyone from
27 the Commission or from the public out there could look at and
28 say, yes, this is how things are being done in the Wrangell-St.
29 Elias Park. And over the last year, at the Commission's
30 request, the Park Service staff developed a draft subsistence
31 hunting plan, which I have here with me today and was just made
32 available to us at our last meeting. And I see this plan as a
33 real positive step in helping the Commission to do its business
34 in the future.

35
36 In this plan it has the various aspects of subsistence
37 management in it, what ANILCA says about them. What is
38 allowed. It talks about eligibility, who is eligible. It
39 talks about access. What forms of access are allowed and not
40 allowed. It talks about cabin use. It talks about C&T
41 determinations. And it lists in here the status of all those
42 issues presently. And so I'd just like to bring that to your
43 attention, that I think we have this document now that's going
44 to be very beneficial to the Commission in the future here, and
45 also to the public. Because if they have a concern that they
46 want to bring to the Commission, they can look at this and they
47 can find out what the status is and the Commission can look at
48 it and use it as a base to work off of. So that's one real
49 positive development I see having occurred over the last year
50 here.

1 Moving on, in the past we've attempted to address
2 proposals to the Fish and Game Boards, this was before the
3 Federal takeover, and we're interested in commenting to the
4 Federal Board about proposals that they were addressing.
5 However, we had some direction from the Park Service that we
6 didn't have that authority and that our authority rested in
7 making recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior. So
8 that much has changed. There's been a lot of attitudes change
9 in the Park Service over the last few years and they're much
10 more receptive to working with local people and with the
11 Commissions. And now they're recognizing that the Commission
12 can go to the Federal Board and provide comments on proposals
13 that effect the Park areas, and this year we did so. We
14 entertained numerous proposals that effected the Park and we
15 provided comments to the Federal Board. And as far as I know,
16 the amendments we made and the recommendations we made to the
17 Federal Board were all passed. Much as the work that this
18 Council has done in going to the Board. And the Commission has
19 the same recommendation authority that this Council has with
20 regards to the Park areas. And so I see this as another
21 positive development. And I'm very pleased that this
22 opportunity is now available to the Commission.

23
24 And as long as I'm speaking on proposals, there was one
25 that effected the Southeast area and that was the C&T proposal,
26 which is one of these, 14, 15 and 16, and I don't know which
27 one it is because -- I guess I can see it up there, it's
28 Proposal 14, it's missing out of my book so I don't have that
29 information. And the Commission supported Proposal 14, and
30 that's the only one that we acted on of the three because these
31 -- the goats are the only animals that are within the Park.

32
33 This Park is quite huge, it's almost as big as the
34 Tongass National Forest and it encompasses a very large area in
35 the State, I think it's 11 million acres, something like that.
36 And the vast majority of the Park is in -- I would describe as
37 the Copper River Basin, and there are numerous communities that
38 are within the resident zone around the Park. And each Park
39 has a resident zone, sometimes they're defined, sometimes
40 they're not. The zone is not really defined on the Wrangell
41 part, but there are numerous communities that are recognized in
42 these resident zones that can utilize the Park resources for
43 subsistence. Well, for well over 10 years now, one of the
44 communities that was left out was the community of Northway and
45 we've been trying for a great deal of time to get them added to
46 the resident zone list. And there's been some resistance, the
47 Secretary's office wanted to study it. We've been working on
48 this for a long time and we haven't got there yet. But there
49 has been some positive developments over the last year here.
50 Also there are other communities that were left out and so

00105

1 we've expanded this effort to include the communities of Dot
2 Lake, Tetlin, Tanacross and Northway, which are primarily
3 Native communities that live near the Park and utilize Park
4 resources and so we presently have a recommendation to the
5 Secretary's office asking that these communities be included in
6 the resident zone. So I'm hopeful that this will be acted on
7 and that these communities will have an easier access to Park
8 resources.

9
10 Also one of the issues we dealt with over the last year
11 was the water fowl hunting. And hunting for water fowl is not
12 allowed in the Parks. And migratory birds were exempted from
13 ANILCA as receiving part of the protection from ANILCA, and for
14 whatever reason, hunting for water fowl in the Parks hasn't
15 been allowed. So we've developed a recommendation to the
16 Secretary's office asking them to allow water fowl hunting in
17 the Parks under the State seasons and bag limits. And
18 additionally, to allow the harvesting of migratory bird eggs,
19 sea gull eggs, tern eggs, which isn't specifically allowed
20 under the Migratory Bird Treaty. And in order for these
21 recommendations to be approved, it takes amendments to the
22 Migratory Bird Treaty which is under negotiations presently
23 with the other various parties that are involved in that
24 treaty. I think Canada, maybe Mexico. And so we're working to
25 try and get these subsistence opportunities provided for in
26 this treaty and at the end of my report, I'm going to have a
27 motion asking for support on this issue from the Council.

28
29 Also, the Commission reviewed those National Park
30 Service, who took part in that review of National Park Service
31 regulations that Clarence Summers referred to earlier. He had
32 a handout based on some of those comments and the Park Services
33 response to those comments. I saw some of our comments in
34 there even though they're not labeled as ours. And so this was
35 an important part of our last meeting, and I just want to
36 highlight for you some of the comments we made about this
37 review of Park Service regs.

38
39 One of the items that received a great deal of
40 discussion was the residency requirement to -- as a member of
41 the community to take part in subsistence. There was a feeling
42 among some Commission members that individuals were moving
43 within the resident zone community and becoming a resident in a
44 short period of time, and I'm not sure what -- you know, I
45 can't give you a time frame on that, but they felt that people
46 were becoming residents maybe for the summer months, using Park
47 resources as a local resident and then moving out of the Region
48 during the winter months and they really felt that these
49 individuals weren't true residents. And so one of the
50 recommendations we made was to, that there be a minimum one

00106

1 year residency requirement in order to participate in the
2 subsistence harvest for subsistence activities within the Park.
3 And as a part of that, also we recognized that we felt it
4 should be recognized that a person's primary place of residency
5 should not disqualify individuals who perhaps are serving in
6 the military or going to school. As their primary residency
7 was within that zone, then they still should be allowed to
8 utilize those resources. So the residency requirement was one
9 of the recommendations that we had.

10
11 Also if you did look at those regulations, there was
12 one part of them that dealt with what was called a significant
13 concentration evaluation. And what that was, language in the
14 Park Service regs that stated that in order to qualify as an --
15 and I might be abusing this description a little bit, but in
16 order to qualify as a resident zone community, there should be
17 a significant concentration of subsistence users within the
18 community and that was further defined as being 51 percent or
19 in other words, a majority of the community should be
20 subsistence users. And Commission members felt that this was a
21 wrong approach and they felt that the evaluation should not be
22 based on a percentage, but should be left up to the Subsistence
23 Resource Commission to determine whether or not it's a viable
24 resident zone community. The determining factor should be the
25 subsistence character of the community, which is defined by
26 many variables, including how they harvest, how they maintain
27 their subsistence lifestyle and the type and number of animals
28 they harvest, the culture, history, et cetera. So there was
29 some concern about that language, felt that the Commission's
30 should be the ones who determined that.

31
32 There's an interest in developing a roster system
33 instead of resident zone communities in some Parks. And the
34 Commission opposed that for the Wrangell Park, but felt that if
35 other Parks and Subsistence Commissions for other Parks thought
36 that was appropriate for their area, then that should be left
37 up to them.

38
39 And also the Commission recommended that -- or
40 commented that the resident zone communities should be
41 recognized as having C&T use for all the species within the
42 Park or Preserve. They're uncomfortable with taking them on an
43 individual stock by stock basis. And they felt that as long as
44 you were a resident zone community, you should be able to
45 utilize whatever resources were available within the Park.

46
47 With regards to access, access issues have been a major
48 part of our discussions over the years. And the SRC felt with
49 regards to airplane access, that the Park Service should change
50 its policy to allow subsistence users to fly into the Preserves

00107

1 or private lands within the Park to land adjacent to the hard
2 Park and walk into the Park for subsistence hunting. The
3 Resource Commission recognized that this policy was a change --
4 was changed State wide in the mid-1980s and now prohibits any
5 part of access to the Park by aircraft. So they wanted the use
6 of access by aircraft liberalized by accessing the Park through
7 the Preserves.

8
9 Also commented that the Park Service policy should
10 carefully manage access to the Park lands so as not to
11 adversely impact private lands by minimizing trespassing
12 damage. And there was some concern that, for example, Native
13 Corporation lands were subjected to, you know, some degree of
14 damage through access and they wanted the Park Service to be
15 alert to this and try to carefully manage the subsistence
16 activities so that these lands were not going to be impacted.

17
18 Also the Commission, with regards to trapping, they
19 agreed with the State comment that was provided, suggesting
20 that the harvesting of free roaming furbearers under a trapping
21 license should be allowed. The SRC felt that this has been a
22 longstanding practice by subsistence users. And what this is
23 about is basically hunting of fur bearers while trappers are
24 working their lines. If they see an animal, for example, a
25 wolf or something, they wanted -- that wasn't in a trap, they
26 wanted to be able to shoot them and take them as part of their
27 trapping activities, and that's not presently allowed. So the
28 Commission supports a policy that would allow the harvesting of
29 these furbearers, you know, free roaming.

30
31 And lastly, the customary trade issue was discussed.
32 And the Commission supported the definition of customary trade
33 that's in the Federal Subsistence management regulations, and
34 this definition would allow the cash sale of non-edible parts
35 of fish and wildlife as long as it was not a significant
36 commercial enterprise. So that was our actions with regard to
37 those Park Service regulation review.

38
39 And lastly, for a good many years now we've requested
40 that the Secretary's office and the State of Alaska, because
41 the Commission reports both, to the Governor's office and to
42 the Secretary, that they do an access study on the Wrangell-
43 St.Elias Park. And what people wanted in this study was a
44 thorough study done to identify the modes of access before the
45 Park -- primarily before the Park became a Park in order to use
46 that information to manage access to the park today and that
47 was a good many years ago that we requested this. The
48 Department of Fish and Game had undertaken this study, there
49 may have been other parties involved working cooperatively with
50 the Department, and they got the ball rolling, so to speak.

00108

1 However, it's come to a halt because there's no funding to
2 continue on with that access study. And I feel that this is an
3 important item that we need in order to protect subsistence
4 users and their access to the Park in the future. So that is
5 another item that I'm going to make a motion on to get Council
6 support to get that funding to complete that access study.
7

8 And lastly, our next meeting is set for November 3rd
9 and 4th in Glennallen, where we'll be reviewing these issues
10 that I've brought to light today, and as well, probably some
11 additional proposals that will be going to the Federal Board in
12 the coming year. So that concludes my report and before I
13 offer any motions I'll ask if there's any questions from the
14 Council members on any of this?
15

16 Hearing none then, I would like to make a motion that
17 the Council support those efforts to bring about water fowl
18 hunting within the Park and the amendments to the Migratory
19 Bird Act that would allow for that, as well as the harvesting
20 of bird eggs, so moved.
21

22 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You heard the motion. Is there a
23 second?
24

25 MR. FELLER: I'll second it, Mr. Chairman.
26

27 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Second. Discussion. Can you repeat
28 the motion?
29

30 MR. VALE: I would move that the Council support the
31 efforts of the Commission to bring about a water fowl hunting
32 season under State regulations, as well as, the amendments
33 necessary for that under the Migratory Bird Treaty, as well as,
34 the amendments necessary to clearly say that the harvesting of
35 bird eggs is acceptable for subsistence, customary and
36 traditional.....
37

38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You said something about funding, I
39 was wondering what that.....
40

41 MR. VALE: That's another motion I'll get to.
42

43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Oh, I thought I heard something in
44 this motion?
45

46 MR. VALE: No.
47

48 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: It's been moved and seconded.
49 Discussion.
50

00109

1 MS. McCONNELL: Question.

2

3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Question's been called, all those in
4 favor say aye.

5

6 IN UNISON: Aye.

7

8 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Those opposed same sign.

9

10 (No opposing responses)

11

12 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: The motion is carried.

13

14 MR. VALE: Thank you Council. And I'd appreciate a
15 letter with regards to this motion to the Commission and the
16 other appropriate agencies that are dealing with this issue.

17

18 And second, I have a motion, I'd like to move that the
19 Park Service -- well, that the Council support actions to get
20 funding for access study, either through the Park Service or
21 the State so that we can complete this study for protecting
22 subsistence uses, access to the Park.

23

24 MS. McCONNELL: Second.

25

26 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: It's been moved and seconded.
27 Discussion. What methods do they use now for fundraising?

28

29 MR. VALE: I'm not clear on that, Mr. Chairman. I just
30 know that Terry Haynes, I can't remember Terry's last name; is
31 it Haynes, did I say that right?

32

33 (Nods affirmatively from Staff)

34

35 MR. VALE: He has been guiding this study through the
36 Department's office and has expressed to us that there's no
37 funding available to complete it and that that's why it hasn't
38 been done. So we're just looking to get some funding to do
39 that, and I think it really is going to need to come through
40 the Park Service or the Secretary's office because there
41 doesn't seem to be any money there on the State level. And you
42 know, access is probably the most hotly debated issues that
43 come before us, and we desperately need this information in
44 order to protect access for subsistence users to the Park.

45

46 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: How can we help, a letter?

47

48 MR. VALE: Yeah, just a letter to the superintendent of
49 the Park and the Secretary asking that this access study be
50 funded.

00110

1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

2

3 MS. GARZA: Call for the question.

4

5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Question's been called, all those in
6 favor say aye.

7

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9

10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Opposed same sign.

11

12 (No opposing responses)

13

14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Motion's carried.

15

16 MR. VALE: Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

19

20 MS. GARZA: I guess just as a matter of looking quickly
21 back on the first motion, John, I would suggest, if it's okay
22 with the Council, that it sort of be rephrased as a resolution
23 because all of your, as well as, sounded like therefore's or
24 whereas' instead of, as well as'. It might read a little
25 better as something that could go around.

26

27 MR. VALE: Sure.

28

29 MS. GARZA: And so maybe Fred could work on that.

30

31 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: What do you mean maybe, tell him.

32

33 MR. CLARK: I'd be happy to put it in whatever form the
34 Council likes. I would suggest that John and I work together
35 and John provide some basic wording to be included, and then
36 perhaps some other folks can put in some input and we can just
37 -- if we don't do it while we're here in Yakutat, perhaps I
38 could just mail it out for review.

39

40 MR. VALE: That sounds good. I'm not particular if
41 it's a resolution or a letter. We have had a positive response
42 from the Eastern Interior Advisory Council supporting this
43 action and it came in the form of a letter. But a letter,
44 resolution, either way, works for me, and I think, yeah, that's
45 a good.....

46

47 MR. CLARK: Do you have a copy of that letter, would
48 that make a good model?

49

50 MR. VALE: I have it at home, I don't have it with me.

00111

1 MR. CLARK: Okay.

2

3 MR. VALE: I'll try to locate it.

4

5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Did I hear something about a lunch
6 being served here today? No. I thought some kids were going
7 to raise money today. Just leave your money for the kids and
8 go eat someplace else. What's the wish of the Council, find a
9 place to eat lunch?

10

11 MR. VALE: Let's go eat.

12

13 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, we'll break for lunch and we'll
14 be back.

15

16 (Off record)

17 (On record)

18

19 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: All I see are silhouettes right now,
20 the sun is behind you. You guys all look a like to me now.
21 Everybody's just as cute as Clarence. You're my standard out
22 there.

23

24 For information for the Board members, I just gave you
25 five pieces of information. All it is is for your information.
26 That gives you an idea of some of the things -- some of the
27 intricacies that's happened during the course of the past year
28 on some of the people I've been in contact with. Some of the
29 correspondence that was needed in order to get some of these
30 things done. So I provided that, hopefully, to give you a
31 little more information, from some of what you might have heard
32 mentioned. If you have any questions about them, I'll be glad
33 to respond. But like I said, it's for informational purposes
34 at this time.

35

36 Are we to our backlogs now?

37

38 MS. MASON: Yes.

39

40 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Our next item is our C&T backlog
41 update. Rachel.

42

43 MS. MASON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon,
44 Mr. Chairman and members of the Council. My name's Rachel
45 Mason, I'm here to talk to you about the C&T backlog. And as
46 you know we've been trying to dispense with all the old C&T
47 requests that are in the backlog for several years now. I have
48 fond memories of the day in Craig of about two years ago when
49 we went through all the C&T proposals and I know that many of
50 you also remember that fondly. This Council took an decisive

00112

1 and thorough backlog combining some of them, disposing of other
2 C&T proposals, either by tabling them or striking them.

3
4 Unfortunately, not everyone in the Federal Subsistence
5 program, Councils or Staff, have been quite so systematic about
6 dispensing with their C&T backlog proposals. And at this
7 point, we're trying to make sure that we have kept track of
8 what happened to everything that was originally on that list,
9 including all the proposals that have been dropped or tabled
10 for some reason or other along the way somehow. So as an
11 attempt to develop a systematic way of dealing with them all,
12 now, we have divided what's left into three different
13 categories. Category one is the proposals that we are planning
14 to complete by spring of 1998 and we have three of those for
15 Southeast Alaska. Category two is the proposals that we are
16 consulting on this round of meetings with the Regional Councils
17 to ask the Councils what to do with them. And these are ones
18 that -- actually they've been kind of quietly left alone over
19 the years, mostly either because they have an unknown proponent
20 or they deal with all species or for some other reason they're
21 just so broad or vague as to make analysis very difficult. So
22 at this point, we're asking the Councils either to consider
23 tabling those proposals or to develop more focused proposals if
24 they do contain issues that are important to your region. And
25 then category three is the proposals that have already been
26 tabled, either by the Regional Councils or by the Federal
27 Subsistence Board or by both. And the reasons have been things
28 like that they are for species that don't -- aren't included in
29 our program or for some other reason they were tabled
30 indefinitely. And so I will show you the ones that you have
31 already struck or tabled in this region.

32
33 So to start with the ones that are already -- I don't
34 know how I'm going to do this?

35
36 COURT REPORTER: The cord will reach over there
37 Rachel.

38
39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: While you're doing that I'd like to
40 recognize and welcome Kim Titus, the Department, good to see
41 you. If there's other people here, that if I didn't introduce
42 you because I don't know you. I always use that for an excuse.
43 So those of you that haven't been introduced that are with an
44 agency, either State or Federal, would you either have somebody
45 introduce you or introduce yourself if you haven't been
46 introduced so far? That way I won't have to point. You better
47 raise your hand, Kim, and let them see who you are. Kim Titus.

48
49 MR. TITUS: I'm Kim Titus. I'm the Regional Supervisor
50 for the Division of Wildlife Conservation for Southeast Alaska

00113

1 for ADF&G. It's nice to be here on a beautiful day.

2

3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. You didn't bring the
4 weather with you, it was here first. Thank you very much. Go
5 ahead, Rachel.

6

7 MS. MASON: In category one, which is three proposals
8 that we have to be completed by spring 1998, these are
9 proposals that should look familiar to you because they were
10 deferred by the Board in spring of 1996. Proposal 14 deals
11 with goat, 15 for moose and 16 for wolf, and all of them are
12 for Units 5 and 6(A). And the reason that they were deferred
13 by the Board was because they effect the Southcentral Region as
14 well as Southeast. And on the next item on your agenda, I'm
15 going to be asking you, as well as Yakutat residents for
16 information to complete the analysis for these. But other than
17 these three, which were deferred, there's nothing that is
18 remaining in this category in the backlog.

19

20 And for category two, these are proposals that I wanted
21 to consult with the Regional Council about. And as I mentioned
22 before, we were asking the Councils either to table these
23 proposals or to submit other proposals that are more focused on
24 the issues. None of these have a proponent that is known,
25 they're all with unknown proponents. Actually two of them we
26 know who the proponents are, but all of them came from comments
27 at EIS hearings or other meetings. They were never in the form
28 of any formal proposals. So they have been carried along in
29 the backlog throughout the years. But they're not -- they're
30 not actual formal proposals. And all but one, as you can see,
31 are for Unit 4. The goat proposal was actually done in 1996,
32 so that's no longer a live C&T request.

33

34 So I guess at this point I would open it to the Council
35 for comments on what is the wish of the Council to do with
36 these?

37

38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: One curiosity, and it's not to be
39 facetious, but you mentioned, proponents, how would proponents
40 be used in this case? I know there should be only one way to
41 use a proponent, but we're with the Feds now. A proponent is
42 somebody that sponsors or somebody that suggests or somebody
43 that brings information about this, right? Is that what this
44 means?

45

46 MS. MASON: That's what I'm using it to mean, yes. The
47 requester, if you prefer that term, the requester is known in
48 the case of the goat. That was from Ann Lowe and it was based
49 on comments at a meeting. The requester for this one is
50 unknown, it's based on comments at a public meeting. The

00114

1 requester for black bear is Pearson and Hanson, attorneys, and
2 that's based on a letter that was sent by them. And for the
3 other three, they're all unknown requesters.

4
5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. Questions. Comments from the
6 Council. One at a time, please. Patti.

7
8 MS. PHILLIPS: They weren't on an original proposal
9 form which is the process we were to follow?

10
11 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: That's what she said.

12
13 MS. MASON: Right.

14
15 MS. PHILLIPS: So then they should be on a proposal
16 form for us to deal with, otherwise scrap them.

17
18 MS. MASON: Well, that would be my suggestion to scrape
19 them. I can tell you how they got on the list.

20
21 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, do that.

22
23 MS. MASON: And that was because they all came in at a
24 time when individual C&T requests were not being considered in
25 the program and then -- well, actually it is a little vague to
26 me how they got on it. But somebody was assigned to go through
27 the comments at these public hearings, EIS hearings, and find
28 all C&T requests contained in them and that's where a lot of
29 these came from and they've been carried along in the C&T
30 backlog for several years.

31
32 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John.

33
34 MR. VALE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I guess the opportunity
35 is open now to submit new proposals; is that correct?

36
37 MS. MASON: That's right.

38
39 MR. VALE: So I guess looking at this and what we've
40 heard, you know, my thoughts would be to scrape them and if
41 somebody wants to propose something dealing with these species
42 in these units, they have an opportunity to do so at this time.

43
44 MS. MASON: Yes.

45
46 MR. VALE: Either we get a proposal or we don't.

47
48 MS. MASON: That's what I would suggest.

49
50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

00115

1 MS. GARZA: I guess what I would suggest as opposed to
2 just sort of scraping them is to let them know that they will
3 not be considered until they're submitted on proposal form so
4 that they can't come back and say, well, we brought it up at an
5 EIS meeting. We were told that it would be considered and now
6 you're not doing anything.

7
8 MS. MASON: Well, that will be possible for the ones
9 that we know who they are.

10
11 MS. GARZA: Um-hum.

12
13 MS. MASON: The unknown proponents, I guess we can make
14 it public that we're not going to be dealing with them.

15
16 MS. GARZA: Yeah, I guess to the unknown's, I'm not
17 sure how much we need to advertise it; if you are Mr. Unknown,
18 please resubmit because you could get a lot of weirdos. But
19 for those where we know it was somebody, I think that we should
20 have a proper response.

21
22 MS. MASON: Yes.

23
24 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Those are my constituents you're
25 talking about.

26
27 MS. MASON: If I could respond to that?

28
29 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Please.

30
31 MS. MASON: Our plan is to send a letter to -- after
32 this round of Council meetings, if the Regional Councils decide
33 that they do want to drop these proposals. We're going to
34 write a letter to each of the requesters telling them what
35 happened. And that again, would give them an opportunity to
36 submit another proposal that was more focused.

37
38 In the case of the unknown proponents, of course, we
39 can't do that.

40
41 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: For those in the audience, would you
42 just for a second, kind of give them an idea of where the
43 different units are, one through five?

44
45 MS. MASON: Sure. One goes.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: No, no.

48
49 MS. MASON: Okay, here, I'm pointing to the map. Unit
50 1 goes all the way down throughout Southeast Alaska. 1(D) is

00116

1 the furthest north, then 1(C), 1(B) and 1(A) is the furthest
2 south of them. Unit 2 is basically Prince of Wales Island and
3 little islands around it. Unit 3 is here, that includes
4 Kupreanof, Petersburg, Wrangell. Unit 4 is the one that has
5 Baranof Island, Chichagof Island and what's the A.....

6
7 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Admiralty.

8
9 MS. MASON: Admiralty, yeah. And we're in Unit 5,
10 we're in Unit 5(A). 5(A) is the southern portion and 5(B) is
11 the northern portion.

12
13 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. And up from there is 6.

14
15 MS. MASON: 6(A).

16
17 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Another region, right.

18
19 MS. MASON: Right.

20
21 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, thank you. Okay, you guys,
22 somebody jump off the fence.

23
24 MS. WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

25
26 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Marilyn.

27
28 MS. WILSON: I move that the Council send a letter to
29 the known -- request -- I move that we request that these be
30 tabled and that the animals.....

31
32 MS. McCONNELL: That the proponents.....

33
34 MS. WILSON: The proponents.....

35
36 MS. McCONNELL: What would they be called?

37
38 MR. VALE: The proponents.

39
40 MS. McCONNELL: The proponents of the.....

41
42 MS. WILSON: I can't even word this.

43
44 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: The requesters.

45
46 MS. WILSON: You want to make the motion?

47
48 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You all heard the motion and I
49 understood it completely.

50

00117

1 MR. VALE: Second.

2
3 MS. WILSON: I knew what I was thinking.

4
5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Moved and seconded.

6
7 MS. McCONNELL: We all knew what you were thinking.

8
9 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, we'll go to discussion.

10
11 MR. FELLER: Call for the question, Mr. Chairman.

12
13 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Question's been called, all those in
14 favor say aye.

15
16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17
18 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Those opposed same sign.

19
20 (No opposing responses)

21
22 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Motion carries.

23
24 MS. MASON: There is a third category and those are the
25 proposals that have already been tabled by the Council or the
26 Board and there are three of them in this category for your
27 Council. And these are all ones that were either tabled or
28 struck by the Council at the 1995 fall meeting in Craig. So
29 they've been scraped, no further action is required.

30
31 Of course there is an opportunity to submit more
32 proposals if that has -- if one of them has become an issue,
33 then this is the time to deal with it.

34
35 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Is there a way we could make it more
36 cumbersome?

37
38 MS. MASON: We don't want that.

39
40 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: So that's for our information, right?

41
42 MS. MASON: That's for your information. And here
43 another -- even more for your information is the fact that
44 there are some fish proposals on the books for Southeast
45 Alaska.

46
47 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Oh.

48
49 MS. MASON: And they are -- of the five, three of them
50 are for Unit 4 and as you can see they're mostly for salmon,

00118

1 but there is a steelhead one for Unit 5 on the books. There is
2 one that was submitted by Mr. Herman Kitka that was for Unit 4
3 and that's salmon, bottom fish and shell fish. But as you know
4 we are not going to be considering them yet, but this is just
5 for your information as to what continues to be in the C&T
6 backlog for fish.

7
8 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

9
10 MS. GARZA: Rachel, weren't there some proposals that
11 had to do with plants?

12
13 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Shell fish.

14
15 MS. GARZA: No, plants.

16
17 MS. MASON: There weren't any that I remember on the
18 C&T list that I've been working with. I don't remember seeing
19 any of them. Although there are some for all species.

20
21 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Plants? I remember discussing it at
22 length, but we may not have gotten it to a proposal.

23
24 MS. MASON: Yeah.

25
26 MS. McCONNELL: It was in our annual report.

27
28 MR. CLARK: There was also a resolution. If I remember
29 correctly, the Council passed a resolution.

30
31 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: We did everything but a proposal.

32
33 MR. CLARK: If I remember correctly, I could check.

34
35 MS. MASON: Yeah. I didn't include them here because I
36 wasn't aware of any that were on the backlog.

37
38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I think our ambition at this point is
39 probably to submit a proposal with regard to plants. Mim.

40
41 MS. McCONNELL: There is in the annual report on Page
42 4, it says, at the '96 fall meeting of the Council in Kake, the
43 Council requested on behalf of the Sitka Tribe of Alaska a
44 positive C&T determination for Sitka residents for spruce roots
45 and cedar bark. Is that the one you're thinking of Dolly?

46
47 MS. GARZA: Yes.

48
49 MS. McCONNELL: So was that considered a proposal when
50 we did that?

00119

1 MS. MASON: That was not placed in the backlog.

2

3 MS. WILSON: The Board rejected it.

4

5 MS. McCONNELL: The Board rejected the proposal on the
6 basis that it is not within their jurisdiction.....

7

8 MS. MASON: Yeah.

9

10 MS. McCONNELL:to regulate plants. And then in
11 the response from the Board, the address that issue, I'm not
12 sure what page.

13

14 MS. GARZA: Page 3.

15

16 MS. McCONNELL: Page 3 in the Board's answer. In the
17 Board's response it says, the Forest Service allows the
18 traditional harvesting of culturally important plants without
19 permits, notice or other bureaucratic mechanisms. This will
20 continue to work well as long as there are no conflicts in use
21 and it goes on. Actually it starts on Page 2 on the bottom,
22 Item 3.

23

24 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: All they're saying here is they have
25 no regulations that specifically address. It doesn't say that
26 they won't accept them.

27

28 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman.

29

30 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Fred.

31

32 MR. CLARK: Sue, did you want to address that?

33

34 MS. DETWILER: I guess I could.

35

36 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Sue.

37

38 MS. DETWILER: At the beginning of the subsistence
39 program, the Board decided that it wasn't going to address
40 plants because it was adopting responsibility for Section 803
41 -- let's see three, four and five in Title VIII of ANILCA,
42 which only deal with the taking of fish and wildlife. So the
43 Board was only assuming responsibility for fish and wildlife.

44

45 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. That makes sense.

46

47 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman.

48

49 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

50

00120

1 MS. GARZA: Yeah, I guess this conversation is coming
2 back to me. And I think that when we had it before, when you
3 read other sections of ANILCA, it does refer to natural
4 resources and that was the point that Sitka was making, is
5 that, plants are part of the subsistence foods and medicinals
6 of Native people and local people. And so, for me, it's just
7 good to know what actually is in there because I think there
8 have been other things that Sitka and Sitka Tribe has submitted
9 that obviously have been killed and it would just be our intent
10 to resubmit them until we just bug the hell out of you guys and
11 you look at them.

12
13 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Sitka Tribe is really getting to be a
14 pain.

15
16 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman.

17
18 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Fred.

19
20 MR. CLARK: The other part of this equation is that the
21 Federal Subsistence Board went through its permutations trying
22 to figure out what their responsibility for plants would be.
23 And as just stated, they decided they didn't have
24 responsibility for plants, on the -- you know, talking with
25 their solicitor and all that sort of stuff. However, at the
26 same time, they put it on the heads of the land managing
27 agencies to figure out what each of the agencies is doing in
28 terms of subsistence use of plants. And I had asked Nels
29 Lawson if he could say a few words about what the Forest
30 Service has been doing along those lines.

31
32 I don't know whether you would like to hear that at
33 this point or wait until after Rachel is done talking about the
34 backlog stuff, it's up to you.

35
36 MS. MASON: I'm done talking about the backlog.

37
38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You want to hear from Nels?

39
40 MS. GARZA: Sure.

41
42 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Nels. I had to check with the
43 officers of the Council to see if we wanted to hear from Mr.
44 Lawson and it's unanimous that we do.

45
46 MR. LAWSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you,
47 Council. Elders. The City of Yakutat. Ladies and gentlemen.
48 My name is Nels Lawson. I'm employed by the Forest Service. I
49 have just recently accepted the position, temporary position of
50 the Regional Tribal government liaison officer. I am also the

00121

1 Tribal government liaison officer for the Chatham area.

2

3 With regard to customary and traditional uses of the
4 plant resources that are with National Forest Lands. It has
5 been noticed that on the lands in the southern states, that
6 when Native Americans have special interest in the plants that
7 reside on National Forest lands and they may even have reserved
8 treaty rights. That when commercial interests wish to take
9 advantage of those plants that are within the Forest Service
10 jurisdiction. That under the special use permit provisions,
11 that those plants are harvested to a very high degree. And
12 when that happens, the Native Americans that have enjoyed the
13 use of those plants for thousands of years become excluded. So
14 my predecessor in this position, John Foss and I, have talked
15 about this and in the Alaska Region, we basically do not have
16 any policy on the management of plants within the National
17 Forest lands.

18

19 So we saw this as an opportunity to work with Federally
20 recognized tribal governments in Southeast Alaska and near the
21 Chugach National Forest to help us identify which plants are
22 important, why they're important. And we have also asked that
23 tribal governments prioritize those kind of plants listing
24 which are the most important. And we've even gone beyond that
25 to ask tribal governments, okay, to suggest policy within the
26 -- that fits within the law when they consider the Forest
27 Service policy. Now, this -- we started this in Sitka, Sitka
28 Tribe of Alaska has been working on it. It's expanded. I have
29 communicated with the tribal government in Yakutat. I don't
30 know if they've made any progress on that. Tlingit and Haida
31 Central Council has taken it up. Ketchikan Indian Corporation
32 has taken it up, and I'm not quite sure what other tribal
33 governments are involved. But from the Federal side, we see
34 this as an opportunity to work together with those tribal
35 governments that we are required to have a relationship with,
36 but work together in a positive manner and perhaps come to some
37 kind of an agreement on the management or how -- the management
38 of plant resources on National Forest lands are to occur.

39

40 In many of the other incidents that we fulfill our
41 obligations to tribal governments, it's after the fact. And
42 when that happens, many times those that are an authority with
43 tribal governments are not quite happy with that and we end up
44 being sued and we end up in litigation for various numbers of
45 reasons. So I think that this is an opportunity for us to work
46 together to come to a consensus and avoid the very costly
47 litigation process.

48

49 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

50

00122

1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Nels.

2

3 MR. LAWSON: Is there any questions?

4

5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Questions. They'll probably come to
6 us as the afternoon goes on.

7

8 MR. LAWSON: Okay.

9

10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: If can indulge, we appreciate it.

11

12 MR. LAWSON: Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. Does the Council have any
15 wishes right now? Do you want to revisit this another time or
16 what -- another time at this meeting?

17

18 MS. WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

19

20 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Marilyn.

21

22 MS. WILSON: It seems like the Sitka Tribe has been
23 working on this and the Tlingit and Haida and all the different
24 other Native government entities, that we should maybe have a
25 letter from this forum -- our Council, to the effect that we
26 are in favor of the Forest Service.....

27

28 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Any objection to that suggestion? So
29 ordered.

30

31 MS. GARZA: In favor of what?

32

33 MS. WILSON: In favor of the Forest Service including
34 plants in the subsistence.

35

36 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: The efforts of the Sitka Tribe and
37 Central Council with regard to specifically naming these plants
38 or whatever their efforts are.

39

40 MS. WILSON: Just for the protection of our subsistence
41 use and lifestyle.

42

43 MS. GARZA: I guess, if the intent is to write a letter
44 that says, we know that plants provide an important subsistence
45 commodity to us and we need to continue working on this, then I
46 think yes. In terms of the work that's been done with the
47 Forest Service and Sitka Tribe, it's been a little bit -- a
48 very difficult process because the Native people have been
49 concerned on the one hand that if we don't do something, that,
50 as Nels was saying, that someone could just mass harvest the

00123

1 resource and we're out.

2

3 But on the other hand, if we go through and we list
4 specifically how we use everything, which is what Forest
5 Service has been asking us to do, then we're giving people a
6 list of what they can go mass harvest and what for. And so I'm
7 not sure where the process is now, but it's been sort of, how
8 do we do it so we don't lose ground situation. And I think
9 that the intent initially was to, you know, we don't need the
10 regulations now, but we need to have an acknowledgement that
11 there is C&T for plants. And how each agency would regulate
12 the use of their parcel of land, I think could follow, but as
13 long as we have that C&T determination, then there's some level
14 of protection. And I think that would be a good first step.

15

16 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Any correspondence that comes from
17 this Council will be drafted or crafted during a recess and not
18 during the time we're in session. So we'll take time to do
19 that to make sure they're carefully crafted. Nels.

20

21 MR. LAWSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to
22 take the opportunity to respond to one of the Council's
23 comments about the details of the plants. We don't need to
24 know the details of the plants. Okay, we need to know what it
25 is and for example -- I'll use an example, like Devil's Club is
26 very important for medicine and it also has some spiritual
27 importance. So beyond that, we're not requesting anymore
28 information. We're not even requesting where it is, we just
29 need to know what it is and if that's found on National Forest
30 land and if a special use request comes in, then we'll know how
31 to respond to that. That's our goal.

32

33 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, thank you.

34

35 MR. LAWSON: Thank you.

36

37 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: What I want to know is what the
38 street value is. Herman.

39

40 MR. KITKA: One of the concerns of the elders in Sitka
41 is they want the plants that they use to be protected so people
42 wouldn't use it for commercial use. You know, there's been
43 people asking the elderlies how the plant was used and they
44 want to commercialize it. This is the protection that we're
45 asking for.

46

47 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: That's true. I give demonstrations
48 every week on how the Devil club feels, but I don't beyond
49 that. Any comments? Marilyn -- Mary.

50

00124

1 MS. RUDOLPH: That wasn't called for Bill. But that
2 was one of the things that I had tried to do was go to the
3 elders and get an idea of some of the plants that we got out of
4 Glacier Bay and around our areas. And that was one of the
5 things I encountered was what Herman just mentioned, they
6 didn't want to share the information. They would share it with
7 me but always kind of made me promise that I wasn't going to
8 release the information of what they used it for. And I have
9 the same concerns as Dolly has, how do we balance it out so
10 that it's something that we can protect and don't hurt in the
11 process. But still, we need to do something, but how far can
12 we go with it.

13
14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, I need to offer a little
15 reminder here. You know, someday the makeup of this Council's
16 going to take a change. And we're not really a Native Council,
17 we're not an IRA. We're still representing ANILCA. It's a
18 matter of geographics on priorities and so we have to -- I
19 think we have to be selective in some of our protective
20 ambitions with regard to that. That's my personal feeling. I
21 do think we need to use some caution on what we do in this
22 forum because it sounds like an ANB meeting right now. So we
23 need to be careful of that.

24
25 MS. GARZA: ANS.

26
27 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: ANB.

28
29 MS. GARZA: ANS.

30
31 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Further comments.

32
33 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman.

34
35 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Fred.

36
37 MR. CLARK: I'd just like to offer a few of my
38 observations in having dealt with the Federal Subsistence Board
39 and the Federal land manager on this particular issue. The
40 Federal Board has been pretty clear that they don't want to
41 deal with C&T for plants. And to keep on plugging away at that
42 is completely within your ability and what you can do. I'm not
43 sure it's going to get very far though you could still keep
44 plugging away at it. But even if you got a customary and
45 traditional use determination from the Federal Subsistence
46 Board, the actual management of access to the subsistence
47 resources would be through the land managing agency.

48
49 So that might be the best place to concentrate your
50 efforts is making your views very explicitly known to the land

00125

1 managing agencies, both the Forest Service and the Park Service
2 in support of, you know, whatever mechanisms you might come up
3 with that would help along those lines. There are some
4 mechanisms that are already started, such as those that Nels
5 spoke about with Sitka Tribe and other tribes. But there may
6 be other mechanisms that they haven't thought about that maybe
7 you could. So you can come up with creative ways to get at the
8 managers, both local level and regional level.

9
10 My impression is that you would have a lot better luck
11 dealing with the agencies than the Board on this particular
12 issue.

13
14 There are two issues that you need to deal with. One
15 is kind of the access issue, in making sure that you can get to
16 those plants that you want to use. And making sure that
17 they're still there in the areas that you're used to collecting
18 them. And the other had been alluded to as well, and that's
19 the intellectual property rights, which is much more complex
20 and harder to understand and harder to build in protections.
21 But that's the other aspect that you need to talk about as
22 well.

23
24 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. Council. Shall we take a
25 recess and reconvene the ANB meeting or what?

26
27 MS. GARZA: We had a motion on the floor.

28
29 MS. WILSON: I didn't make a motion.

30
31 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: She was making -- and I so ordered,
32 without objection. But I got both support and objection.
33 What's the wish of the Council.

34
35 MS. WILSON: Well, I so move that we write a letter
36 drafted by Dolly and whoever will help her.

37
38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly and Mim are our two authors.
39 So there's a motion on the floor, is there a second.

40
41 MS. GARZA: Second.

42
43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: It's been moved and seconded.
44 Discussion.

45
46 MS. WILSON: Question.

47
48 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Question's been called, all those in
49 favor say aye.

50

00126

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2
3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Those opposed no.

4
5 (No opposing responses)

6
7 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Motion carries. Okay. Rachel, are
8 you still on parts of your presentation?

9
10 MS. MASON: I have another presentation.

11
12 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You do, okay.

13
14 MS. MASON: Is this better like this?

15
16 MS. MEEHAN: Yeah.

17
18 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: No.

19
20 MS. MASON: Proposals 14 -- is it on now or is it off?

21
22 COURT REPORTER: It's on.

23
24 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Sure.

25
26 COURT REPORTER: It's on.

27
28 MS. ABRAHAM: Are we ready?

29
30 MR. VALE: Rachel.

31
32 MS. MASON: Yes.

33
34 MR. VALE: Excuse me for a moment. Before we get into
35 the proposals, we had one or two speakers that would like to
36 address the Council and then maybe we can go and solicit
37 comments on the proposals as you get to them, okay.

38
39 MS. MASON: Sure.

40
41 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Are we ready for the speakers now?

42
43 MR. VALE: Yeah. Elaine, are you ready at this time to
44 make some comments?

45
46 MS. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, members of the Subsistence
47 Regional Advisory Board. I'm ready as soon as Rachel puts back
48 my maps.

49
50 MS. MASON: Well, I put one of them back, do you need

00127

1 them both?

2

3 MS. ABRAHAM: Um-hum.

4

5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Boy, some of the requirements by the
6 public.

7

8 (Off record comments)

9

10 MR. VALE: Mr. Chairman, I asked Elaine if she could
11 have a few words today as well as some of the others. I
12 thought this would be a great opportunity of meeting here in
13 Yakutat to hear a little bit about the Yakutat people, who we
14 are and where we're from. So at this time, Elaine, please,
15 let's hear.

16

17 MS. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, members of the Southeast
18 Regional Advisory Council. I had first put down good morning,
19 now, it's good afternoon. You will have to excuse our
20 preoccupation. Yakutat, in a state of crises with two
21 unexpected deaths, and so if we seem a little preoccupied, we
22 are in a real state of crises and shock.

23

24 I was born here in Yakutat about 65 plus years ago. In
25 fact, just where these cars are parked on this other side,
26 there used to be a little house there, and in 1935 it tumbled
27 down into the sea. That was where I was born.

28

29 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Before or after it tumbled?

30

31 MS. ABRAHAM: Before it tumbled, Bill. The oral
32 history that I want to share with you on behalf of the Yakutat
33 people has been passed on from generation-to-generation. I was
34 really fortunate my father didn't speak English so I didn't
35 speak English until I was about 10 years old, so my first
36 language has always been Tlingit, with a little bit of Eyak,
37 with a little bit of Ahtna and a little bit of Southern
38 Tutchone. That is what we are in Yakutat, we're Tlingitized,
39 Eyak, Ahtna Athabascans and Southern Tutchone Athabascans. And
40 tonight we've been struggling with the program that we were
41 going to do for you. The songs and dances that were going to
42 be performed were from the area where we come from, which is
43 Chitina, way up here. (In Native Language) for those who speak
44 Tlingit, in the land of the Athabascans. That's where we
45 started from, Chitina. That's where -- if you go up there you
46 will see their land, it's saturated with copper, and that's why
47 we're called the Copper River people.

48

49 We came down through here on the Copper River area to
50 what is now Katalla. The other group went down and came out on

00128

1 the side of that magnificent mountain, was (In Native Language)
2 Mt. St. Elias. When you used to see Harry Bremner, you used to
3 see the Mt. St. Elias on his regalia. That's because that
4 mountain was the spiritual guide that guided these Athabascans
5 down here to be Tlingits.

6
7 This is my uncle's son, Don Bremner. His father is
8 John Bremner and he's got a little bit of advice for his old
9 aunt, (In Native Language), I'm his Raven Auntie. When we came
10 down through here, the others went through here and those of
11 you that are guided by Dr. Freddie De Laguna's book, that we
12 are the people she named that book after, "Under St. Elias" at
13 the foot of Mt. St. Elias, these are the Copper River people.

14
15 Before I get too much into the Copper River area, I
16 want to acknowledge my teachers. And one of the most important
17 things that stuck with me all my life and I had other teachers
18 from Southeast that I really honor, and what they said to me
19 and I wrote it down so that I could share with you 'cause the
20 TV's are off. Words are sacred, (In Native Language), when
21 ancestral history is told, it must be told with sacred words.
22 (In Native Language), your words float with the spiritual life
23 of its own when you talk about your ancestral history because
24 you're talking about where they walked, where they fished,
25 where they hunted, where they were cremated and buried, and it
26 must be told in humility and honesty. And that's what I want
27 to attempt to do for you today.

28
29 Tlingit law was really strong. It forbade you to talk
30 about somebody else's clan. And I want to thank the Yakutat
31 tribes to give me the honor of talking about their clans and
32 giving their oral history of the ancient people. My
33 concentration is going to be in the area of where my people
34 come from, which is Katalla. But to do honor to the rest of
35 the Yakutat tribes, I will start with (In Native Language) the
36 land of my grandfathers, Coho people, (In Native Language),
37 that are in this area, Dry Bay area. They are the ones that I
38 was referring to as (In Native Language), the foreign people
39 they were called because of their association with Southern
40 Tutchone. If any of you have studied Dr. de Laguna's books,
41 you will see that the songs and chants that she collected from
42 here, from this area we're Southern Tutchone. We referred to
43 my (In Native Language), the people of my grandparents as (In
44 Native Language), and they occupied from Dry Bay going all the
45 way up to Dangerous River. When you get to Dangerous River,
46 that became the (In Native Language), the Brown Bear people
47 that left Tongass, the Lion -- the Sea Lions Island from
48 Ketchikan, that's the Brown Bear (In Native Language) with the
49 (In Native Language), they come from the Sea Lion Island (In
50 Native Language), that's my father.

1 And the rest of them went around Sitka and they went to
2 Angoon. The Jacks are all my Brown Bear father's people. They
3 occupied and they bought (In Native Language), Dangerous River,
4 Situk River and I don't know if Nellie is there, our ANS
5 president, Nellie Lord was born there, her mother was born
6 there. My great grandfather was born in (In Native Language)
7 area. After you leave that area you hit this side of where you
8 landed when you came to Yakutat, the airport. On that side of
9 the airport starts my clan, Copper River people, just on this
10 other side of the airport runway. And my father was born
11 across here, this is where the Russians first met them on that
12 island across -- straight from across there. My grandfather,
13 my great grandfather all occupied this area.

14
15 When the Copper River people came to Yakutat, this bay
16 was not there, it was ice. So we figure it was about 3,000
17 years ago that they came into this area. You have to remember
18 they were Chitina/Eyak/Athabascans that eventually became
19 Tlingitized.

20
21 If you go towards Cordova, and I've got this all marked
22 up here, starting from Icy Bay, Yakataga towards Seal and
23 Kaliakh, that's what we call Kwaask'i Kwaan Kaagwaatann, (In
24 Native Language) and Teddy Vale, the head of the (In Native
25 Language) Kaagwaatann came in from fish camp, they brought him
26 in from his setnet there so he could be here while I talk about
27 the Kwaask'i Kaagwaatann, his people. His grandmother was born
28 at Kaliakh at Icy Bay and Yakutat, many of you know Jim Thomas.
29 Jim Thomas' father was born in Yakataga area. Teddy Vale's
30 grandmother was born in Kaliakh. Seal area is where my uncle
31 Johnny Bremner and them have lived for all of their lives. My
32 clan land starts at the runway and it runs right into Icy Bay,
33 going up towards Hubbard Glacier. Our mountain is Mt. St.
34 Elias. The Kwaask'i Kaagwaatann who's land starts from Icy Bay
35 towards Cordova. Their mountain is Mt. Robertson. I can never
36 remember the name in Tlingit.

37
38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Native Language)

39
40 MS. ABRAHAM: There it is. (In Native Language), and
41 that's Eyak, that's the Eyak language. It's -- this is where
42 the Kwaask'i Kaagwaatann occupied all the way from Icy Bay
43 towards Cordova. I'll go back again to Chitina, the
44 Athabascans. And the songs that we had prepared and the dances
45 for you tonight come from 3,000 years back (In Native
46 Language), that's what they used to say about us. Here comes
47 the Athabascans. That's why we dance differently and that's
48 why we have different regalia's. They are doing the dances and
49 the songs that the Chitina Athabascan no longer can do because
50 it's so ancient. But like many migrating people, they retain

00130

1 the ancient ways because they migrated and carried it with
2 them. And hopefully, maybe there will be a couple of these
3 dances.

4
5 For those of you that are familiar with Tlingit laws,
6 when there is a death in the family and the two deaths are
7 Raven, the two deaths are from this area, you are not allowed
8 to do fun and joyous dances. So the elders are pretty much in
9 a quandary on the kinds of dances they will be doing tonight.
10 It's very interesting, they originated from up here, they came
11 down to Copper River. In 1868, John Bremner, my grandfather,
12 was born in Barren River, Chilkat (In Native Language) and his
13 uncle Chief John in 1848 was born -- this is all up from the
14 Cordova area, and I've got little dots here. These are the
15 clan houses they built. Up until 1901 they were building their
16 clan houses from Barren River up from Chilkat from Katalla,
17 your -- your mark, if you want to orient yourself, coming from
18 Cordova to Katalla and on up into the Interior, there's Barren
19 River and there's Barren Lake, (In Native Language) is those
20 great big dragon flys, and they call it the Monster Dragon Fly
21 Lake. That is where the Kwaask'i Kaagwaan met the Beaver and
22 their Beaver became their emblem in this area up from Katalla
23 and up from Cordova. John Bremner was born in 1868 and his
24 uncle, Chief John, was born in 1845, approximately in those
25 areas. They married John Bremner, who did the Allen Expedition
26 in 1885. So way up here you've got Bremner Valley and you've
27 got a Bremner River, you've got a Bremner -- Little Bremner,
28 Big Bremner, Bremner Valley and Bremner Glacier right next to
29 the place called Allen Expeditions. This is where the Yakutat
30 people come from.

31
32 They lived in this area and they had one more tribe
33 with them, and this tribe is unique to Yakutat, it's the (In
34 Native Language), they no longer are any other place but here
35 in Yakutat. They're the Eyak Eagle Tribe, (In Native
36 Language), George Johnson, Jumbo Johnson, and I had the honor
37 of sitting in the area of Barren Lake on the platforms, on the
38 houses, clan houses they built in 1985 (sic), that's a far ways
39 from Yakutat. But they occupied all of this area, (In Native
40 Language), the Eyak Eagles of Yakutat were a partnership with
41 the Kwaask'i Kaagwaatann. And they gave this land down to
42 Marten River to their brothers, the Eyak Eagles, and they named
43 the place (In Native Language), that's Eyak language. My
44 nephew that came to advise me, he's named after that place, his
45 name is (In Native Language), that (In Native Language) is
46 supposed to be a L because the Eyak language does not have our
47 Tlingit L, but we Tlingitized that as we became Tlingitized, so
48 that L turned to L of the Tlingit language.

49
50 All of these areas that I've got with the little boxes

00131

1 are where the Kwaask'i Kaagwaatann builds their eagle houses,
2 and the beaver house, and they're rebuilding all the way up to
3 Kaliakh and right up to Icy Bay under their mountains, under
4 the Robinson Mountain. They also -- my mother was also in this
5 area in Kayak Island in Katalla, just north of Cordova, my
6 mother was born there, Suzie Bremner Abraham, Harry Bremner,
7 George Bremner, John Bremner, Leslie Melton, Auntie Mary -- is
8 she here? Mary James, she was born there in Katalla.

9
10 MS. JAMES: I was born in Katalla.

11
12 MS. ABRAHAM: And her mother was born there, Annie
13 Johnson. Jim Thomas' mother, grandmother, they were all born
14 in this area. And the surviving group from that Cordova area
15 all the way up to Barren Lake, it's the Kwaask'i Kaagwaatann
16 and the (In Native Language), and the Copper River people.

17
18 So what I wanted to stress was that the Tlingit people
19 in Yakutat are originally Chitina, Ahtna, Athabascans, Eyak,
20 Southern Tutchone and then our pure Tlingits who Tlingitized
21 them. Those are the ones that were moving up from the south
22 like my father's people from Tongass Island that are now (In
23 Native Language) people and the other ones that are in Angoon.

24
25 I want to thank again, the elders and the tribes, the
26 six tribes of Yakutat for giving me the honor to tell about the
27 history of their people. And I want to thank this group for
28 giving us time to tell you a little bit about who we are and
29 coming to our great country. What we say to Mt. St. Elias is,
30 take off your hat, we have -- we're going to honor people of
31 honor -- take off your hat and let the sun shine on them. Once
32 in a while she obeys, sometimes she doesn't, she obeyed this
33 time. (In Native Language). Thank you.

34
35 (Applause)

36
37 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Elaine, with regard to the dance
38 group tonight; tell them not to feel obligated to do anything
39 on our account. Have them do whatever's comfortable for them.
40 We're honored to be here to be considered. We'll support and
41 honor whatever choice they decide. If you'd convey that to
42 them, we'd thank you very much. Thank you.

43
44 MS. ABRAHAM: Thank you.

45
46 MR. VALE: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John.

49
50 MR. VALE: Is there anyone else that would like to say

00132

1 a few words before we do our proposals on goats and moose.

2

3 MS. JAMES: I was born in Katalla, 1907. Katalla is my
4 home. Me and my sister, Sara, were born in Katalla.

5

6 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Ninety years ago.

7

8 MS. JAMES: 1907.

9

10 (Applause)

11

12 MR. VALE: (In Native Language) Mary.

13

14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I was born the same date. Marilyn.

15

16 MS. WILSON: I would like to see Elaine's speech today
17 recorded so that we could read it at our leisure as a Council.
18 I'm hoping that would be appropriate.

19

20 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You got it?

21

22 MS. HILE: I've got it.

23

24 MS. McCONNELL: She's got it.

25

26 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: We don't have it on camera. We're
27 going to portray it on camera in our own way.

28

29 MS. WILSON: Thank you.

30

31 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

32

33 MS. GARZA: Actually it would be really nice if we
34 could get a copy of that section of the tape; that's what I
35 would like.

36

37 MS. ABRAHAM: If not, I will give John my notes.

38

39 MS. GARZA: Okay, I'll take the notes.

40

41 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Do you guys want to go to proposals
42 or do you want to fill your coffee cups? Coffee, 24 seconds.

43

44 (Off record)

45

46 (On record)

47

48 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Some of the Department of Fish and
49 Game people have to leave this afternoon. It doesn't happen
50 without sadness overshadowing our being here, but we'll do what
we can to entertain ourselves while they're gone. So thank you

00133

1 and have a nice trip.

2

3 Rachel.

4

5 MS. MASON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to talk
6 together about Proposals 14, 15 and 16. These three C&T
7 proposals came before the Regional Council and the Board in
8 1996. Proposal 14 is for goat, 15 is for moose and 16 is for
9 wolf. And all three, as pointed out before, deal with the uses
10 of Units 5 and 6(A) by residents of both, the Southcentral
11 region and the Southeast region. And at the spring meeting,
12 the Board approved a positive C&T for Unit 5(A) residents in
13 Unit 5 for each of these proposals, but it deferred the portion
14 of it dealing with uses in Unit 6(A) in order to give the
15 Southcentral Regional Council to weigh in on uses in its own
16 territory.

17

18 So in response to that deferral, representatives of
19 both the Southcentral and the Southeast Councils met in Cordova
20 in May.

21

22 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Roy and myself.

23

24 MS. MASON: Pardon?

25

26 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Roy and myself. Roy Ewan.

27

28 MS. MASON: No, actually the Council members present
29 were Ralph Loshe from the Southcentral Council and John Vale
30 from the Southeast Council.

31

32 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

33

34 MS. MASON: And there also were some Federal Staff and
35 some Cordova residents present including a representative from
36 the local fish and game advisory committee and then four people
37 representing the Eyak tribe. And at that meeting, there was
38 some general discussion of the uses of Unit 6(A) for goat,
39 moose and wolf. And at that time what we were looking into was
40 combining Proposal 15 with Proposal 19 because there was also a
41 deferred proposal from the Native Village of Eyak for
42 ceremonial moose -- use of moose in Unit 6(C), and so what I
43 planned on doing and have done now is to write a proposal that
44 includes both of those and so it's for use in Unit 6,
45 altogether. And that proposal, the combined 15 and 19 proposal
46 is being considered as a special action by the Federal
47 Subsistence Board at their meeting on October 21st. And that's
48 in order to accommodate the request from the Eyak Tribe for
49 ceremonial moose for a potlatch to be held in December or
50 January. And so that's why it's being considered this fall.

1 Proposals 14 and 16, however, will be considered at the
2 spring 1998 meetings. And so again, at the Cordova meeting,
3 the idea was developed that the Southcentral Council would
4 submit its own proposal, proposals for the deferred portions of
5 Proposals 14 and 16. And the analysis for those proposals will
6 look at how the uses of goat and wolf are distributed in Unit
7 6(A). But at that meeting and this was true of all three of
8 the proposals, the participants indicated that Unit 6(A) could
9 be divided into Unit 6(A) east and west because the residents
10 of Cordova appear to concentrate primarily on Unit 6(A) west,
11 which is a portion of the proposal that's closest to Cordova,
12 whereas, Yakutat concentrates on 6(A) east. And based
13 primarily on the statements of people present at that meeting,
14 for the purposes of the draft analysis, I drew the line between
15 6(A) east and west straight north of Cape Suckling. But that's
16 something that I'm still in the mode of gathering information
17 on and I hope that some information will come forth at this
18 meeting.

19
20 The Staff analysis for Proposals 15 and 19 was included
21 in the materials that were sent to you and what I'm asking of
22 this Council at this point is to provide more information on
23 the traditional uses of 6(A). So I guess I'm asking Mr. Vale
24 and residents of Yakutat to provide information on that. And I
25 will try to incorporate that information into the analysis in
26 time for the October 21st Board meeting. And for Proposals 14
27 and 16, we have the luxury of more time to gather information.
28 So again, that's what I would like to find out here in Yakutat,
29 about the uses of Unit 6(A) by residents of Yakutat.

30
31 And unless the Council wishes, I don't plan on going
32 through the whole Proposal 15 and 19. There isn't -- I'll just
33 leave it at that. I'll ask you if you want me to present it to
34 you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: They were similar in language, right?
37 Was that the reason for them being coupled?

38
39 MS. MASON: No. They were similar areas. They both
40 deal with moose in Unit 6, and that's why the two of them were
41 put together. But the Board has already acted on the portion
42 of the original proposal that concerned the Southeast region.

43
44 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John.

45
46 MR. VALE: Yes, Rachel, so I'm clear on it. You
47 combined those proposals and made that C&T determination for
48 all of Unit 6 or is it still 6(A), the proposal on moose, is
49 that still what we're talking about?

00135

1 MS. MASON: Yeah. What still remains.....

2
3 MR. VALE: I'm not clear on that.

4
5 MS. MASON: Yeah. What was left of the original
6 Proposal 15 was the request for positive C&T in Unit 6(A) for
7 residents of Unit 5(A). So that is part of this draft
8 analysis. What has already been acted on, of course, is the
9 uses in Unit 5, and that's already been determined. So if you
10 would like, I will summarize the analysis.

11
12 MR. VALE: Okay. Go ahead on that. I just wanted to
13 make sure that what was being proposed was still left intact
14 there.

15
16 MS. MASON: Yeah.

17
18 MR. VALE: That is C&T for moose on 6(A) for residents
19 of 5(A)?

20
21 MS. MASON: That's right. That's the request that's
22 being analyzed there.

23
24 MR. VALE: And it's my feeling that the request from
25 the Eyak people for ceremonial moose, if it helps you in some
26 manner to combine them, that's okay, but I don't want it to
27 change that proposal that was submitted from Yakutat here on
28 C&T for moose in 6(A).

29
30 MS. MASON: No, it didn't.

31
32 MR. VALE: Okay.

33
34 MS. MASON: I considered uses throughout Unit 6 for the
35 proposal analysis. However, in the recommendation, the
36 conclusion's separated into the different subunits of Unit 6.
37 But it did not do anything to the original request.

38
39 MR. VALE: Okay.

40
41 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: So what's the Council wish?

42
43 MR. VALE: Do you have a summary that you wanted to
44 make Rachel?

45
46 MS. MASON: Yeah. And I think you were all sent this
47 along with some maps. And I'll be pretty brief. I'll try to
48 skip over what portions of it don't effect your region. But
49 again, this proposal combines Proposals 15 and 19 from the last
50 proposal cycle. And as you've heard, it concerns C&T use of

00136

1 moose in both Units 5 and 6, and so it effects two different
2 regions. It was deferred because the -- it effects the
3 Southcentral region and the Board wanted the Southcentral
4 Council to get a chance to weigh in on it.

5
6 There's presently no subsistence priority for moose
7 anywhere in Unit 6. And as you've heard Elaine Abraham
8 describe, much more eloquently, in prehistoric and historic
9 time, there were several different Alaska Native groups
10 inhabiting the region that's effected by this proposal. And
11 for centuries there have been migrations, territorial
12 expansions and conquests as well as trade and intermarriage
13 among all these groups. Including the Tlingits, Eyaks,
14 Alutiiqs, the Chugach people and several different Athabascan
15 groups.

16
17 The Eyaks were once a thriving and powerful group, but
18 they've been on the brink of dying out since early in this
19 century. And the Tlingits living along the coast of what is
20 Unit -- now Unit 6(A) were especially subject to
21 Tlingitization, and Ms. Abraham mentioned that she is a
22 Tlingitized Eyak or is part of that group.

23
24 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: That's their version.

25
26 MS. MASON: And others were pushed to the Copper River
27 Delta. So today there are only a handful of Eyaks left, many
28 of them living in Cordova. So part of the motivation for the
29 Proposal 19 was an effort to revitalize the Eyak culture
30 through the memorial potlatch, and that was the desire for the
31 moose.

32
33 Also as you know, moose are a relatively new resource
34 in the Yakutat area. They were only available in the Dry Bay
35 area until the 1920s or '30s and then they began to move closer
36 to Yakutat sometime in the 1930s. However, even though moose
37 are pretty new here, long before the moose arrived here, they
38 were obtained in trade and mostly from Athabascan groups in the
39 Interior. Moose are also an introduced species in the Copper
40 River Delta. And again, except through trade with other groups
41 there was very little use of moose in Unit 6 until the hunting
42 seasons were opened and in their case it was in 1960. But
43 there was extensive trade with other groups, as well as,
44 intermarriage and other kinds of communication that resulted in
45 familiarity with moose as with other resources that were used
46 by the groups.

47
48 From the harvest ticket data, an examination of
49 documented moose harvest appeared to follow the same lines that
50 were expressed by the Cordova residents at the meeting in

00137

1 Cordova, that uses of moose in Unit 6(A) are dominated -- the
2 Cordova residents appeared to concentrate on the western
3 portion whereas the Yakutat residents appear to concentrate on
4 the eastern portion of Unit 6(A). And again, the actual
5 dividing line could be up for discussion and appeared to be a
6 convenient dividing line.

7
8 But the preliminary conclusions were to adopt the
9 portion of the proposal regarding moose in 6(A) with
10 modification. And that would be to divide Unit 6(A) into Unit
11 6(A) east and Unit 6(A) west, following the documented harvest
12 patterns of the residents of Units 5 and 6, east and west of a
13 dividing line at Cape Suckling and then draw north from the
14 Cape. So the suggested modification of the proposal would, in
15 Unit 6(A) east, give a positive C&T determination for residents
16 of Unit 5(A) and Unit 6(C). And then in Unit 6(A) west, Unit
17 6(B) and Unit 6(C), give a positive C&T to all the residents of
18 Unit 6(A), 6(B) and 6(C). And then in Unit 6(D) retain the no
19 subsistence determination. The justification for this is that
20 the portion of Proposal 15 dealing with uses in 6(A) should be
21 modified because the rural residents of both Unit 5(A) and 6(C)
22 have historically used 6(A) to harvest moose.

23
24 And then again, it doesn't effect this region, but the
25 preliminary conclusion was for Unit 6(D), since there has been
26 little or any moose population and no tradition of moose
27 hunting has been established, the recommendation was to retain
28 the no subsistence determination. And also in the
29 justification, I wanted to emphasize, since moose is not native
30 to either of these areas, that since prehistoric times the
31 indigenous residents of Units 5 and 6 have been familiar with
32 moose and have traded with moose, and since moose has come into
33 the area, they have used it along traditional lines. So the
34 patterns of harvest, processing, distribution and consumption
35 have been comparable to harvests of other species.

36
37 So that concludes my summary.

38
39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You say that moose wasn't native to
40 those areas?

41
42 MS. MASON: Well, they were introduced into Unit 6 in
43 Cordova, and they moved into the Unit 5 area. So it depends on
44 what you mean by native to those areas.

45
46 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Does that disqualify them from
47 consideration as immigrants?

48
49 MS. MASON: Maybe they can be naturalized.

50

00138

1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. What are we into now? Do we
2 feel like hearing from the public? John.

3
4 MR. VALE: I'd like to make a comment on Rachel's
5 benefit and for whoever might speak from the public there. As
6 Rachel mentioned earlier this year I met with some Cordova
7 residents as well as some Staff people from Fish and Wildlife,
8 and Fred Clark was there with the Forest Service and our
9 coordinator to try and listen to some of the concerns that
10 Cordova residents had about these proposals. At that meeting,
11 the Cordova residents seemed to be alarmed by these proposed
12 C&T for these animals and they felt that, you know, the -- I
13 believe there was some recognition that Cordova used the area
14 more extensively west of Cape Suckling and Yakutat used it more
15 extensively east of Cape Suckling. And there was a desire to
16 draw a line at Cape Suckling with regard to this C&T proposal.

17
18 I have conferred with people locally here. I brought
19 that back and asked them what they think and they find that
20 unacceptable, the people that I've spoke to. And if you heard
21 Elaine and I'm sure the other folks will address this, that
22 area of 6(A) incorporates the traditional lands of Yakutat,
23 almost completely. And drawing a line at Cape Suckling and
24 excluding that area west is excluding some traditional lands
25 that simply is unacceptable.

26
27 Now, there is less harvest activity today than there
28 were many decades ago in that area. However, it is still
29 considered the traditional lands of the Yakutat people, as
30 Elaine told you and as Mary James told you, who was born there,
31 in Katalla, that area is important to them. So I, personally,
32 am unwilling to draw a line on Cape Suckling. And so I just
33 kind of wanted to clarify that for your benefit.

34
35 And if we're ready, Mr. Chairman, we could open it up
36 for public comment.

37
38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Normally, if we're going to talk on
39 different proposals, we have a piece of paper that we like you
40 to fill out. Not having those, those of you that are here,
41 please present to yourself to the front table and we'll give
42 you the opportunity to speak on whatever proposals you would
43 like. Come forward and identify yourself. They're caucusing.

44
45 Come up here, please.

46
47 MR. VALLEY: Mr. Chairman, Advisory Council. My name
48 is Ted Valley. I am the (In Native Language) Kaagwaatann
49 Beaver House. As you heard Elaine testify, my grandmother and
50 my mother were born in Katalla. My mother was born in 1886, so

00139

1 that means my grandmother was born up there in early 1800, and
2 my great-great grandmother would have to be somewhere in the
3 mid-1700s. And that is the unit you call 6(A), I believe is
4 and always has been and always will be the land of the Kwaask'i
5 Kaagwaatann, that's where we're from.

6
7 So when I hear you all wanting to put lines saying that
8 I can hunt or can't hunt kind of disturbs me. I think that if
9 push came to shove, as far as hunting on that area, we could
10 sit down with the Chugach and settle it. Because we've had
11 many encounters with the Chugach people, and they know that
12 belongs to us. And I will remind you of the Alaska Claims
13 Settlement Act, which was bad in some things and good in
14 others. During the Claims Settlement Act I was at the AFN
15 Convention and I objected to the Chugach putting their boundary
16 in Icy Bay. At that time, the powers that be, that was
17 representing Southeast Alaska said, and came to me and said,
18 you better be quiet or they're not going to allow us to be part
19 of the Act. I said, why? And they said, because the Tlingit
20 and Haida have already settled. And I said, the Tlingit and
21 Haida settled for lost resources. I said, this is a Claims
22 Act, land claims. And I said, that's our land and I object to
23 anybody taking it. And they continued and continued and
24 finally they came back with a compromise, at least it was their
25 compromise, not mine. They said, we'll know that this is your
26 land and the Chugach will give you and protect your rights to
27 hunt and fish in that area. It's right in the Claims Act if
28 you'll look at it. So Chugach cannot stop us from hunting in
29 that area. We already settled that during the Claims Act. So
30 if we want to hunt there, we just tell them, hey, we're going
31 to hunt in our traditional hunting grounds, and that's that.
32 Likewise, if they come down and they say, hey, we're hunting
33 there. We never tried to stop them from hunting and fishing
34 there, but they have tried to stop us. But I pointed out the
35 Claims Act to them and that was okay.

36
37 And as far as, I read some of your handouts and the
38 question of wolf. My grandfather's a wolf. If you will go to
39 the Park Service building here in Yakutat you will see a
40 screen, it's a beaver screen from the wolf bath house, that
41 belongs to my clan. I am the caretaker of that screen. So
42 wolves have always been a part of our life, we've used them all
43 the time. Same with mountain goats. If you study the history
44 of Raven's tail, we -- you will begin to understand that it's a
45 very high possibility that that's where we originated, up in
46 that area and all down through this way. Because we use goats,
47 we use wolves, we use beaver, we use sea otter. And everything
48 that you can find up the coast we have used it.

49
50 So customary and traditional use means when? Forever?

00140

1 Well, we've been using it forever. Just because the Federal
2 have no records of people from Yakutat taking wolves doesn't
3 mean we didn't use them. We've used them.

4
5 So I kind of don't like to see in writing, especially
6 in any kind of documentation saying that we didn't use this or
7 we didn't use that. If you want to know what we used, come and
8 ask us and we will tell you. If you want to know where we fish
9 and hunt, ask us, we'll tell you. If we want to fish and hunt
10 on anybody's land, we'll ask them. That is customary. That is
11 Tlingit law. You do not go on anybody else's land without
12 asking. So we would not go on Chugach land unless we had
13 permission. However, the Claims Act says, we will protect your
14 right to fish and hunt in that area because we understand that
15 traditionally, that belonged to the Kwaask'i Kaagwaatann. So
16 I'm speaking, I guess in support of the proposals so long as we
17 have the right to harvest whatever it is we want.

18
19 So this is all I have to say, thank you. I believe
20 that Elaine covered most of what I wanted to say, but I just
21 want you to know that, hey, we've used all that stuff up there.
22 I was going to wear my wolf vest, I have a wolf vest. I have a
23 right to wear a wolf vest. I was going to wear my raven's tail
24 weaving bag that I made myself. I was going to wear my moose
25 hide headband. But I just got back from the river, I was rush,
26 rush, rush, this was going on, so here I am. I'm sorry I
27 didn't get to dress up for you. Being the spokesman for the
28 Kwaask'i Kaagwaatann, I should have dressed up. So I apologize
29 to you, I'm sorry. And I thank you for giving me this
30 opportunity.

31
32 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. If it wasn't for your t-
33 shirt, I wouldn't have known you were a wolf. Next time, if
34 we're going to have any speakers from Yakutat, I'd like them to
35 use some enthusiasm in their presentation. Thank you very
36 much. The comments you made and some of the protections you
37 asked for, we have already implemented those protections of
38 making sure that no loss is going to occur. Thank you for your
39 presentation. Don. Don, the Council wants you to use the mic.

40
41 MR. BREMNER: Mr. Chairman, my name is Don Bremner.
42 I'm representing the Yak-tat Kwaan Corporation, but as Elaine
43 mentioned earlier, my family and my tribe's people come from up
44 there. I'm (In Native Language) Kaagwaatann, I'm Ted's
45 brother. I got to apologize to my Aunt Mary sitting back
46 there, 90 years old, said, when you get up there and talk you
47 should stand up, so now you ask me to sit down. So since
48 you're the boss here, I'll sit down and apologize to my aunt.

49
50 But I wanted to speak to two points. The first one is

00141

1 under Proposal 16.

2

3 MS. GARZA: Don, you could stand up and hold that up,
4 it comes out.

5

6 MR. BREMNER: Okay.

7

8 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Keep us all happy.

9

10 MR. BREMNER: Thank you. There, Aunt Mary I'm standing
11 up.

12

13 MS. AUNT MARY: Okay.

14

15 MR. BREMNER: I wanted to speak to two points, the
16 first one I believe is under Proposal 16. It states in there
17 that the wolf population was a new species to that region. So
18 I want to speak by proxy on behalf of my father, John Bremner,
19 Sr., who was born in Katalla with his sister Mary. And they've
20 lived up there. For years my family owns Native allotments at
21 the Seal River over here. And he was raised by his uncle,
22 Jimmy Jackson, and so they from way back -- my dad's 85 years
23 old now, have always hunted and used the wolf species from that
24 region. So I just wanted to clarify that point.

25

26 And as Ted and Elaine has pointed out, this is our
27 traditional country here. So in talking about customary and
28 traditional uses, to us, it's our life. This is our basic
29 right, our human life to life to use the land and resources.
30 That's our definition. And we've tried to avoid the
31 bureaucratic, legal definition of subsistence and customary and
32 traditional uses. Again, you'll hear -- probably you've heard
33 it at some of these Native summits, this is our basic right.
34 This is our right to life. And if you just draw another
35 natural boundary here at Cape Suckling, we've gone in this
36 region through some pretty major battles with the Federal and
37 State government on artificial boundaries. So I think that if
38 there's going to be a boundary there, then it's going to be Ted
39 and the Kwaask'i Kwaan people are going to get together with
40 those Natives up there and work it out that way. I think that
41 would be the proper way instead of just saying, well, the Eyak
42 group up there is going to revive their culture now so we want
43 to draw the boundary here to give them that opportunity. Well,
44 we have the same -- could come up with the same argument from
45 our side. So I don't think there should be an artificial
46 boundary put there until we work it out ourselves.

47

48 So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

49

50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Don. Actually that's what

00142

1 the plan is. That's why nothing has been done to this point.
2 And both Councils says, let's not do anything until we talk to
3 the people on the other side. I don't think you can anticipate
4 anymore lines. We'd like to use the old lines as much as we
5 can. I put them there a long time ago and I want them to stay.

6
7 But, no, we're not going to do anything that would be
8 awkward. We want to make sure that any understanding that
9 occurs in that area will have the consensus of people of the
10 two units. So I think you can take that to the bank. I'm 99.9
11 percent sure, it's that one-tenth that bothers me.

12
13 Anybody else?

14
15 MR. SENSMEIER: I'd like to welcome you to Yakutat.
16 I'm Raymond Sensmeier, I'm president of the Alaska Native
17 Brotherhood and I serve on the local Fish and Game Advisory
18 Council on subsistence and serve with John on the Wrangell-St.
19 Elias Park and Preserve. I'd like to speak in favor of these
20 proposals, particularly the one on goat. I know there was a
21 problem and that if we're only allowed to take one that, that
22 the distance that we had to travel to do that was not
23 worthwhile. And that we're still engaged in that activity. As
24 a matter-of-fact, not too long ago there was a one year
25 potlatch held for Nora Bartels, an elder that passed on. And
26 she's Kwaask'i Kwaan Kaagwaatann from the area that Ted just
27 spoke of. And her son went up there and got goat and brought
28 -- and served goat talla at the potlatch. That's a traditional
29 use of the goat talla, and it had been a long time. I
30 remembered my grandmother, Kitty Issacs, who was married to
31 Chief John -- the gentleman who Elaine Abraham spoke of has
32 been born in 1842, that's my great grandfather, Kitty Issacs,
33 my great grandmother was born in Katalla also in 1865.

34
35 But as president of ANB and as the organization group
36 present these proposals, I speak in favor of them and testify
37 that those uses are still being engaged in and utilized to this
38 day. Thank you very much.

39
40 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you very much, Ray. Anybody
41 else? George.

42
43 MR. RAMOS: Mr. Chairman, Board members.

44
45 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: George.

46
47 MR. RAMOS: My name is George Ramos. I have a
48 difficult time with one area when we talk about tradition,
49 culture and tradition. A few months ago somebody asked me,
50 would you help us to run the protocol on a potlatch. And I

00143

1 said, how far back do you want to go? And so when we talk
2 about culture and tradition; how far back do you want to go?
3 This is where I always wonder about it.

4
5 A lot of people now say in the potlatch, do you want to
6 go back to the area where only the two head man speak, and when
7 they're brought to the door they're announced as the (In Native
8 Language), the child of the land, the people who own the land
9 and the house masters. They are the head people in a
10 community. They used to sit there, the women used to sit
11 against the wall all the way around the back, women could not
12 speak in a potlatch in them days. How far back do you want to
13 go?

14
15 So when we talk about customary and tradition, the use
16 of the land, the five tribes of Yakutat we talk about we were
17 organized in 1952 because of the oil company. And we found out
18 Kwaask'i Kaagwaatann, the Beaver people owned the north the (In
19 Native Language) people owned from Icy Bay as they were
20 describing a while ago. My clan comes from Akwe down to Lituya
21 Bay. The Thunderbird people goes up into the upper Dry Bay.
22 The Brown Bear Clan, as she named a while ago, my grandfather's
23 people who came from Tongass. Five tribes of Yakutat who are
24 the land owners. Can you imagine that at one time when I took
25 my GPS, capsulated it, but the boundaries in there, we own 263
26 miles of coastal land. It has been cut up, Park Service,
27 Wildlife Preserve, Yakataga, all of these, and it keeps getting
28 smaller, so now we own three miles of land as a corporation;
29 263 miles, and yet we can extend it up further from Cape
30 Suckling like she says to Katalla, and now we're talking about
31 compromising. Well, we feel that maybe we can compromise
32 because we used to cover that area, I am -- like she said, I
33 used to listen to the old time men, 1955 they were sitting over
34 here, five old men and they says, enough. Enough, that we have
35 to hang our head in shame because they would not let us do our
36 dances and our history, so now we're going to bring them back
37 to the young people and we've been trying to carry this on.

38
39 We talk about the wolf. The Wolf Clan is the Beaver
40 Clan also, that's their crest up in that area. The mountain
41 goat, at one time, Icy Bay on up was a big glacier. At one
42 time the very place you're sitting on was a glacier covered
43 area. Our history in Yakutat starts when the glacier covered
44 (In Native Language) they call it, the little creek that you
45 cross as you're going to the airport, salmon come up through
46 there. Hubbard Glacier used to be clear down here, all the way
47 across the bay to Manby. When I was growing up I used to hear
48 all these stories, they'd say our story starts when the glacier
49 was here and I used to wonder, geez, what time was that, you
50 know, it always used to bother me. So they told me when the

00144

1 first white man came into, (In Native Language) came into
2 Lituya Bay and I used to hear the Tlingit side story and I used
3 to wonder, when was that and I started putting it together,
4 studying the history.

5
6 In the year about 1000, the glacier covered this area.
7 What year did they start migrating down from Chitina and Copper
8 River, long before the year 1000 because probably at the year
9 1000 when they came out on the other side of the glacier over
10 here, the way they knew there was people on this side because
11 there was blood on one of the ice. And they were the ones that
12 came through that area. Later on, my grandson here, Ted
13 Valley, because his grandfather was a Coho Clan, so he is now
14 my grandson, something that is very difficult for outside
15 people to understand. And the Brown Bear people are my
16 grandfather's people, so even these little children that are
17 Brown Bear people are my grandfather. The relationship, but
18 this history was passed down from generation to generation. In
19 the year 1000, what was going on in the world, maybe the year
20 1100, like I always say, Genghis Khan was running over Europe,
21 Marco Polo had just gone to China, and we were migrating --
22 they were migrating down this way. My grandfather's people was
23 migrating up the coast, which tickled me to find out. I
24 established pretty close what year my grandfather's people
25 migrated up the coast all because they are the ones who named
26 Mt. St. Elias. They call it (In Native Language), the mountain
27 with fire coming out of it. And when I called the Park Service
28 in Sitka they said, well, 750, 800 years ago is the last time
29 it blew its top, so I know that my grandfather's people came,
30 what two or 300 years before that. That's how I established --
31 pinpoint the date.

32
33 A lot of these things I passed on, statistics and
34 everything. We cannot tell you how many goats and stuff we
35 have taken out of Icy Bay, but I'll tell you one thing, the fat
36 from inside of the goat's stomach is one of the most highly
37 prized thing that we used to trade as our big canoes went down
38 to the state -- they'd go clear down to the State of Washington
39 through Canada. And if you had those rolls, they used to cut
40 it out, it was a really trading stock. So we're willing to
41 compromise, we've been compromising all over the world, all
42 over the United States we've been compromising, so we're
43 compromising in Yakutat. We'll say, well, we'll just go for
44 Cape Suckling, we won't go to Katalla and try to wrangell their
45 Bering River and everything away from them because that's still
46 our grandfather's land also.

47
48 Thank you very much.

49
50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you very much, George,

00145

1 appreciate it.

2

3 Was there anybody else going to offer some comments
4 with regard to these proposals?

5

6 MR. VALE: Mr. Chairman. Thank you guys. I'd like to
7 offer an apology to the Council members and to the Staff and
8 particularly to the Yakutat people for the erroneous statements
9 I made at our last Council meeting where I said, wolves were
10 new entrance to the area up there in 6(A).

11

12 I still have a lot to learn about our uses up here and
13 the animals. And I was just plain wrong on that one and
14 actually I got that information from sitting at a Board of Game
15 meeting and listening to Staff report to the Board and I
16 accepted it and I didn't confer that fact with the folks here
17 back at home. So that's where it came from, and I was just
18 wrong on that and I just want to offer my apologies for that
19 misinformation that was brought out there.

20

21 And also, I would like to have the comments that were
22 provided by the Yakutat people here today transcribed and
23 presented to the Southcentral Regional Council as testimony on
24 these proposals. I'd very much appreciate it if we could make
25 sure that that happens.

26

27 MS. HILE: Okay.

28

29 MS. MASON: I'd like to clarify, do you want them
30 transcribed and presented verbatim or would it be acceptable if
31 a summary were presented?

32

33 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: It's going to be transcribed in any
34 case?

35

36 MS. MASON: Yeah.

37

38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: So verbatim would probably be the
39 preferred.

40

41 MR. VALE: I would prefer verbatim. If you want to put
42 a summary on top, you know, that would be okay, I guess. But I
43 would just like to make sure that those folks with the
44 Southcentral Regional Council, you know, have a clear
45 understanding about what these proposals mean to the folks
46 here.

47

48 MS. MASON: Okay.

49

50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, in defense of John's

00146

1 representation for Yakutat, I'm really encouraged to know that
2 he can make a mistake because John has been a real staunch
3 supporter of our Council. He represents the people of Yakutat
4 impeccably. He defends the culture impeccably. He represents
5 the culture as well. And I'm very involved and submerged in
6 those areas of observance and I've found John to be an
7 outstanding representative from Yakutat. You folks really
8 should be proud of him. But that one mistake, I don't think
9 it's forgivable, so it's something he'll have to live with.

10

11 MR. VALE: Thanks, Bill.

12

13 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

14

15 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, I guess I'd like to get an
16 idea from Rachel whether or not she wanted any feedback from
17 the Council or recommendations. I guess earlier in the
18 presentation I had the impression that the Federal Subsistence
19 Board would be making a determination about potlatching for a
20 moose and the second area was possibly that line dividing area
21 6 to which I have a simple comment to offer.

22

23 MS. MASON: Well, it -- the proposals have been
24 combined. That doesn't mean that the Board will necessarily
25 act on both at the same time. The one where there is some
26 urgency is the potlatch ceremonial moose because they wanted to
27 harvest it in December of January. With Proposals 14 and 16,
28 which are similar to 15, in that, they concern 5(A) and 6(A).
29 Those are anticipated to be acted on by the Board in spring in
30 '98. So they were combined simply so that moose for all of
31 Unit 6 could be considered at once, but that doesn't mean that
32 the portion dealing with what we are talking about couldn't be
33 deferred again.

34

35 MS. GARZA: Okay. In terms of the moose for a
36 potlatch, I couldn't imagine that there would be an objection
37 to that. I guess in the issue of drawing the line around Icy
38 Bay, when I was thinking of it, you know, I think of Game
39 Management Unit, despite the fact that not all the communities
40 come to the center of Game Management Unit 4, people still have
41 C&T for the whole region.....

42

43 MS. MASON: Um-hum.

44

45 MS. GARZA:so I don't understand why there has to
46 be a line at all. I mean if Cordova people have demonstrated
47 they have use patterns in the area and Yakutat people have
48 obviously demonstrated they have use patterns in the area, I
49 don't see why a line has to be drawn in the middle for any
50 reason.

00147

1 MS. MASON: Yeah. That was the solution that was
2 discussed at this meeting in Cordova. And the Cordova
3 residents present were in support of that, of course, there
4 were more of them than there were of John Vale. But that was
5 the idea that they found acceptable at that point based on
6 their knowledge of what the use patterns were.

7
8 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: So what action would suit everybody
9 involved, if any?

10
11 MS. MASON: What?

12
13 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Excluding the Boards?

14
15 MS. MASON: Yeah, um?

16
17 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I'm talking about the users?

18
19 MS. MASON: Yeah, I.....

20
21 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John, you got an idea?

22
23 MR. VALE: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure if the folks in
24 Cordova would be satisfied, you know, with the proposals as
25 written. The folks that I talked to, which of course was not
26 all the people in Cordova, you know, had a strong interest in
27 seeing a line there at Cape Suckling. But clearly, we're not
28 interested in that here. And what I would like to do in this
29 regard, is to reaffirm the Counsel's support for these three
30 proposals and I offer a motion that the Council positively
31 support these three proposals as written.

32
33 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You heard the motion, is there a
34 second?

35
36 MS. McCONNELL: Second.

37
38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Moved and seconded. Discussion.

39
40 MR. VALE: Call for the question.

41
42 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Question's been called for, all those
43 in favor say aye.

44
45 IN UNISON: Aye.

46
47 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Those opposed say no.

48
49 (No opposing responses)

50

00148

1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Motion is carried. Okay. Does that
2 conclude your portion?

3
4 MS. MASON: Yes.

5
6 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Rachel.

7
8 MS. MASON: Thank you.

9
10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, that takes us out of old
11 business and into new business already. We are now going to
12 take up new business 6(A), new Council member training
13 materials. Fred.

14
15 MR. CLARK: Bill, I think that you could talk to this
16 just as well as I could. But the deal is is that the Staff, at
17 the Office of Subsistence Management and some of us from other
18 agencies have been considering redoing the old operations
19 manual and putting together other materials to assist in
20 training Council members and, particularly new Council members,
21 because the system is fairly complex and somewhat daunting if
22 you're just getting started as Jeff might attest to. There are
23 so many little ins and outs they have to keep in mind. So to
24 that end, Fish and Wildlife Service put together kind of a
25 focus group to brainstorm ideas of producing materials that
26 would be of benefit to Council members and to help everybody
27 really in the program to operate better. And the product of
28 that you have a copy of right now. This is a draft version of
29 the new Federal Subsistence Management program, manual for
30 Regional Council members. This is -- i say it's a draft
31 because they still want your comments about what you like, what
32 you don't like about the document. Whether it's easy to use,
33 easy to understand.

34
35 The final, after they get your comments, is -- the
36 intent is to print it up in two different colors to kind of
37 help highlight certain parts of it. Make it easier just to go
38 to particular issues that you want to look at it. You haven't
39 had really very long to give it a look over though. I know
40 that some people have been using it already during this
41 meeting. And I find myself referring to it quite a bit even
42 during this meeting, so I think we can see already that it's
43 fairly a useful piece of work. But if you have ideas for
44 improving it, things that you'd like to see done differently,
45 you can either give your comments to me or you can send them
46 directly into the Office of Subsistence Management in
47 Anchorage.

48
49 Bill was part of that focus group, I was part of it. I
50 can't think if any other of the Staff here was part of that.

00149

1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: So at this point it's basically for
2 your information, something you'll want to take a look at. And
3 if something comes across your attention while we're here, by
4 all means, bring it up. If not, you could forward them anytime
5 after we adjourn this meeting. So thank you, Fred.

6
7 MR. CLARK: The other thing, Bill, is that -- well, I
8 guess, Sara's already gone, but Sarah Iverson was running the
9 video camera. And the reason she was doing that was to get
10 footage of this Council in operation so that footage might be
11 used for additional training materials or other, you know,
12 public sort of outreach efforts that are done to explain how
13 the Council operation works.

14
15 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, if we knew that was happening,
16 we'd have had a different posture.

17
18 MR. CLARK: But part of that was a release form because
19 we always keep talking about intellectual property rights, so I
20 have copies of the release forms for all of you to sign should
21 you want. If you decide not to sign it, that's okay too.
22 They'll just have to edit you out of each of those things. So
23 the video footage will have little brown spots running around
24 all of it.

25
26 (Off record comments)

27
28 MR. CLARK: So I'll pass these out later and you can
29 sign them.

30
31 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You'll do what?

32
33 MR. CLARK: Excuse me, I'll distribute these.

34
35 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

36
37 MR. CLARK: I'm still in training, Bill.

38
39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Fred, that was a good
40 introduction. And again, look this over. A lot of good effort
41 went into it and Staff has been diligent and they've been
42 sending faxes and Fed-Ex mail back and forth to the
43 participants trying to give you a good draft and I think they
44 did that. So if you see anything in there that you would like
45 to offer as an improvement, by all means, submit that.

46
47 Okay, (B), proposal to change regulations, subpart (C)
48 and (D), everybody, Tab 1 -- Tab I. Have any proposals been
49 received that you know of Fred?

50

00150

1 MR. CLARK: Not that I know of.

2

3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, so now is the time. Let's take
4 a five minute break. Patti.

5

6 MS. PHILLIPS: I'd like to take a break.

7

8 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay for a break? Let's take a short
9 break and give people a chance to interact here with this.

10

11 (Off record)

12 (On record)

13

14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, we'll come back to order. I
15 took that break to give people an idea to touch base with other
16 people on their same wave length to see if there was any
17 material for proposals that we could put in a draft form now so
18 that we could have it ready for submittal. And I'm hoping that
19 you've done that.

20

21 As a word of announcement, due to the deaths that
22 occurred effecting Yakutat, they're asking us to be done in
23 here by noon tomorrow. I think we'll be able to meet that
24 without any problem. I think we're going well on our agenda.
25 And to the people of Yakutat, because we have a little
26 different behavior pattern at our meeting is not to suggest
27 that we're not respecting of the people that are grieving here,
28 we certainly are. But what happens at our meeting is kind of
29 characteristic of how we do business. So if we offended
30 anybody in the process, we apologize for that, but we thank you
31 guys' indulgence.

32

33 What's the wish of the Council, is there anybody here
34 for ideas for a proposal? Patti.

35

36 MS. PHILLIPS: I'd like to submit a proposal for
37 martin, mink and weasel, Unit 4.

38

39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Say that again, please.

40

41 MS. PHILLIPS: I'd like to submit a proposal concerning
42 martin, mink and weasel, Unit 4, Chichagof Island.

43

44 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

45

46 MS. PHILLIPS: The current proposal -- or the current
47 regulation states, Unit 4, Chichagof Island, no limit, December
48 1st to December 31st. And I'd like to change it to martin,
49 mink and weasel, Unit 4, northeast Chichagof controlled use
50 area, no limit, December 1st to December 31st. Unit 4,

00151

1 remainder of Chichagof Island, no limit, December 1st through
2 February 15th. Should I go on?

3

4 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: (Nods affirmatively)

5

6 MS. PHILLIPS: This regulation should be changed to
7 reflect the increase in martin populations in the Lisianski
8 Inlet Straits, Yakobi Island and west Chichagof Island
9 wilderness area. The increased population in martin has the
10 number of martin harvested at an all time high in this area.
11 The martin area a nuisance problem for cabins in the outlying
12 areas. The martin intrude in cabins and ransack whatever they
13 can find. Locals have commented on the increasing numbers and
14 ask local trappers to actively trap near where they live.

15

16 The martin and weasel -- the mink and weasel seasons
17 were changed at the same time as the martin season. The
18 squirrel population appears to be healthy as well as voles.
19 The martins have a plentiful food source and it was a mild
20 winter last year that allowed martin to multiply. When the
21 season for martin, mink and weasel changed because of the
22 decline in martin populations, the criteria for conservation
23 should have reduced the number of trappers by allowing only
24 local use and harvest. The Federal Subsistence Board should
25 have shut down sports trappers and determined who has C&T use
26 and given priority over all other users.

27

28 In the Lisianski Inlet Straits, Yakobi Island and west
29 Chichagof wilderness area local residents use this area
30 actively for trapping. The area traps specifically is the
31 beach fringe area trappers using skiffs to travel the coast.
32 When ice forms in the bays and inlets, trappers move their
33 traps out and are trapping where open waters are. This area
34 has traditionally had a December 1/February 15th trapping
35 season. Because of the seasonal economy, local residents rely
36 on the winter trapping season to supplement their income. This
37 is not a significant commercial enterprise.

38

39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Do you have this format on your disk,
40 Fred? The proposal form?

41

42 MR. CLARK: No.

43

44 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You don't? Geez. John.

45

46 MR. VALE: Patti, are you presenting this to have the
47 Council submit it as a proposal?

48

49 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

50

00152

1 MR. VALE: Okay.

2
3 MS. PHILLIPS: I am. That's my intent.

4
5 MR. VALE: Is that a motion then?

6
7 MS. PHILLIPS: I so move to submit.....

8
9 MR. VALE: I'll second that.

10
11 MS. PHILLIPS:martin, mink and weasel proposal.

12
13 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Let's get the proposal written to
14 where we can see what it looks like and then decide on action
15 after that.

16
17 MR. VALE: Okay.

18
19 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: But for now, let's get it in the
20 proposal form and then if we need to dress it up, we will. Is
21 that okay, Patti?

22
23 MS. PHILLIPS: Sure.

24
25 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: So that's what we'll do. That's one.
26 Does anybody else have one? Do you have another one Patti?

27
28 MS. PHILLIPS: I do. But don't you want to go one by
29 one?

30
31 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, we'll come back to -- when we
32 start drafting, we'll just draft the two of them.

33
34 MS. PHILLIPS: Well, the second one.....

35
36 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Then we'll bring them back, both for
37 review.

38
39 MS. PHILLIPS: The second one is for deer. Where is
40 it.....

41
42 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: So the second one you said is a
43 reintroduction?

44
45 MS. PHILLIPS: Right, with amendments.

46
47 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: With amendment to Proposal 12 from
48 last year.

49
50 MS. PHILLIPS: I offer to resubmit Proposal 12 with

00153

1 amendments. And there's one part of this, I'm not sure if it
2 should be a resubmittal of Proposal 12 or resubmit by itself
3 and then utilization of wildlife. I was concerned about --
4 I've been thinking about how to address the wanton waste
5 concerns of the Sitka area, and so I was wondering if this book
6 could include, utilization of wildlife for deer. Edible meat
7 must remain on the bones of the front quarters, hind quarters
8 and ribs until removed from the area or is processed for human
9 consumption and antlers must accompany meat from the field.

10
11 I took that from the State reg book because they were
12 having a wanton waste problem with caribou in parts of the
13 Interior. And so I thought that would be a good solution to
14 addressing wanton waste concerns of the Sitka area.

15
16 And the resubmittal of Proposal 12, Game Unit 4, deer,
17 Sitka Sound/Peril Straits use area. And I included a
18 description of the Sitka Sound/Peril Straits use area described
19 as Unit 4, Sitka Sound/Peril Straits use area, all drainages of
20 Baranof Island north of the divide from north point of Kasnyku
21 Bay, southwest to north cape of Whale Bay or Point Lauder of
22 Whale Bay and all drainages on Chichagof Island draining into
23 Peril Straits, Hoonah Sound and Salisbury Sound east of Point
24 Leo and all offshore islands, including Kruzof, Biorka and
25 Catherine. This description for the Sitka/Peril Straits use
26 area was taken from past regulations, I believe, from 1994.

27
28 To readdress Proposal 12 is a proactive response to
29 concerns and encourages the Sitka ADF&G Advisory Committee, and
30 I encourage the Sitka ADF&G Advisory Committee to have a
31 solution before a conservation problem occurs. Our intention
32 is to have a program that will maintain healthy resource
33 populations. The management goal is to maintain healthy stocks
34 in subsistence priorities. My goal is to address a problem
35 before it happens. I don't want it to come to us when it's
36 already at a level of decline. And I thought that Proposal 12
37 was a step in that right direction. I was not in Sitka, I was
38 weathered out of Sitka for the last meeting, though I was
39 teleconferenced in, it did not justify a quality meeting for me
40 to be involved in. So for that reason, I'd like to resubmit
41 it. And I'm not sure how to go about.....

42
43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, I'm not either. What I'd like
44 to do is have both of those in a form so we could read them as
45 members of the Council, just so everybody is informed about the
46 language and their implications. I'm not expecting any
47 challenges, but I just want to make sure that you people are
48 making an informed decision on these. So -- Mim.

49
50 MS. McCONNELL: A couple things, I'm curious maybe to

00154

1 hear from Dolly or Herman about what's been happening as far as
2 deer hunting this fall in Sitka and also if they've come up --
3 or if they're going to be coming up with another proposal or
4 resubmitting the old on or whatever? And also another thought
5 that I had had, either to go along with Patti's proposal or the
6 Sitka one or whatever, was maybe revisiting the change in the
7 regulation that we made a while back about shooting deer out of
8 boats. If that's a problem in the Sitka area with wanton
9 waste, then maybe in the Sitka area that should be changed.
10 And that was just a thought that I had about that.

11
12 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman.

13
14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

15
16 MS. GARZA: I guess in response to Patti and to Mim,
17 I'm not sure if it should be considered a resubmission because
18 I think that your amendment to it makes substantially different
19 than the initial Proposal 12, although it's attempting to
20 address the same problem. I know you weren't there, Patti, but
21 it was a very contentious issue last year and it really left
22 some of us with sore marks from being beaten for two days. And
23 so although we would like to continue address the problem, I
24 don't want to have it associated with Proposal 12 anymore or
25 those scars will be reopened.

26
27 I don't think that the issue is shooting from a boat.
28 I think that the issue that -- at least one of them was the
29 contest that they have for the biggest points on a deer so
30 people were hunting, taking those and leaving the rest. And I
31 think that if we attempted to do a no shooting from a boat in
32 the Sitka area, we'd probably be shot or we would be missing
33 anyway.

34
35 And so I guess I sort of feel uncomfortable about the
36 whole process now because, I think, in part, it should come
37 from Sitka and we do have some Sitka people here. I think
38 Marty might want to speak to it or Nels or Ted. And I don't
39 know what the intent from Sitka will be. Last year we had a
40 fairly good winter so we have good deer survival this year and
41 so it will probably not come up as a major issue, although,
42 that's generally when you want to address it is when it's not
43 an issue in dire straights. But maybe if we could have Marty
44 come up.

45
46 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, Marty.

47
48 MS. McCONNELL: Mr. Chair.

49
50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Mim.

00155

1 MS. McCONNELL: Just while Marty's on his way up, maybe
2 he can answer this question. I remember last year he had said
3 something about educating the public in Sitka about wanton
4 waste and also talking to the sponsors of the trophy hunting
5 thing, trying to get that to change or something. Maybe you
6 can answer questions about that.

7
8 MR. MARTIN: Well, in our Game Management Unit 4 -- oh,
9 by the way, my name is.....

10
11 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I suppose you want to give us your
12 name.

13
14 MR. MARTIN: I was just getting ready to do that, Bill.
15 For those that do not know me, my name is Wade Martin, I come
16 from Sitka. Traditional foods coordinator for Sitka Tribe of
17 Alaska. I do a lot of hunting, fishing. I provide food for
18 elders out of Sitka, our needy people, disabled, our shut in
19 people. And I have extensive knowledge in our game unit. If
20 anybody over there, and I'm not saying this because I feel
21 swelled up about it, but if anybody over there has any
22 knowledge about these areas, I do, because I cover them every
23 year, every season, everything that's in season we harvest.
24 I'm pretty knowledgeable on these areas.

25
26 From what I've seen this year, Dolly's witness to it, I
27 took her out hunting last Sunday and we seen four deer in
28 Nakwasina just on the way up to the river, got two deer. Two
29 days before that, Friday, we got six deer. There's plenty of
30 deer around right now. We had mild winters for the last couple
31 of years, and there's -- it looks like in the forecast for this
32 year, from what I can see already, the deer are going to be in
33 high abundance. And anybody that knows anything about deer, in
34 January those deer are run down pretty bad. I'm sure there are
35 people that need those deer, but we normally do not hunt after
36 December -- the end of December. We let those deer go off and
37 live a peaceful life and lay down and conserve their energy to
38 make it into the next season so we have something left for next
39 year and following generations.

40
41 The wanton waste issues, I feel, I heard people talk
42 about the Big Buck Contest, I feel that's a real direct reason
43 why a lot of deer and why we do have a lot of wanton waste.
44 The guys go out there and they go climb the hillside and they
45 look for a big rack and they don't want to pack a 200 pound
46 animal off the hill.

47
48 Another issue I feel, and I'm not going to lie to
49 anybody, is shooting off a boat with an inadequate weapon.
50 Myself and John Neilson came up to this Board last year and we

00156

1 tried to get help to have -- to start shooting deer with an
2 adequate weapon. I've shot deer with a rifle as small as a .22
3 magnum. But if you shoot them with a full-metal jacket,
4 there's no expansion, there's no shock, and the deer will run
5 off and probably three-quarters of the time someone will not
6 follow those deer up and really chase them down and harvest
7 them.

8
9 So a lot of people blame the wanton waste on a lot of
10 different things, but those are the -- shooting with an
11 inadequate weapon, a full-metal jacket bullet. I've seen
12 people knock a mini-14 -- I've shot many a game with a min-14,
13 it's the bullet. A .308 full-metal jacket, a 7x62x39 full-
14 metal jacket, a .223 full-metal jacket, a 30.06 full-metal
15 jacket, they should put a ban on those for hunting deer. They
16 have no expansion and people never follow them up. Three-
17 quarters of the time I bet they don't follow them up, so it's
18 the game loads they use and the Big Buck Contest.

19
20 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Why do they even use them?

21
22 MR. MARTIN: They're cheap. It's cheap ammo. You can
23 buy the stuff in big boxes for pennies, you know, it's real
24 cheap. And people on a hunting budget, they'll use them. You
25 go out to O'Ryan's Sporting Goods or Mac's Sporting Goods and
26 you ask either one of those merchants what they sell in those
27 calibers and they sell a lot of it. It's Chinese block animal,
28 it's made by Noranco, it's very cheap ammo.

29
30 But our people have been shooting off of boats for
31 years. I consider myself a good hunter and I've dropped many a
32 deer hunting the beaches. And I'm sure there are people that
33 do not follow-up on that deer when they are shot from a boat,
34 but probably just until recently, the last couple of years,
35 they've started looking at that as a problem. I'm sure that's
36 been a problem all along, these numbers probably have always
37 been that way.

38
39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

40
41 MS. GARZA: In response to your question on the
42 education in trophy hunting. It's my understanding that
43 neither one of the two companies there are willing to cancel
44 their Big Buck Contest. So that's logically not going to
45 happen. In terms of education, we sort of went round and round
46 with it through our committee, and that included, myself, Fish
47 and Game Advisory Council, STA and Ted, with the Forest
48 Service. And you know, we came to the general conclusion that
49 those people who know, you know -- I mean it's the people who
50 need to know aren't going to listen and so we're not sure that

00157

1 education is going to go that far.

2

3 But I think -- so Marty, what did you think about
4 Patti's suggestion that it require that some type of meat or
5 the meat from the deer come out with the antler?

6

7 MR. MARTIN: I think that's a good suggestion. A lot
8 of times when these guys bring these animals in and bring their
9 horns into those shops, into those stores, that's all they
10 bring in is the horn. I think they should -- when they -- if
11 they're not going to ban those Big Buck Contests, they should
12 bring the whole animal in and they shouldn't accept horns
13 unless that whole animal is there. I'd like to see them
14 hacksaw them off right there. At least you know that animal's
15 been brought in out of the field and it will be probably
16 processed.

17

18 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: The State Board of Game did that with
19 bear, you got to bring out the edible parts of a bear when you
20 shoot them. Patti.

21

22 MS. PHILLIPS: I'm thinking that there's two concerns
23 here and so maybe it should be two separate proposals so that
24 there -- you know, it won't all fail, but parts of it will
25 pass. Like the wanton waste concern, I'd like to see that
26 passed. And I'd like the other part to pass with the
27 possession one deer limit in January for the Sitka use area.
28 So there's two different concerns here, so that probably should
29 be two different proposals.

30

31 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

32

33 MS. GARZA: In response to the one deer in January is
34 pretty much where we got beat up by the portion of the
35 community that felt like who we were hurting as subsistence
36 people because if they need deer then they're going to go out
37 and get it. So while the intent was good, the major impact
38 would be on the users that we're trying to protect. And so I'm
39 not sure that if we resubmitted that portion it would go
40 anywhere again.

41

42 MR. MARTIN: Well, I feel like there is two issues here
43 and it seems like it's all coming under the same roof of the
44 same proposal, 12. I feel like they should be a separate
45 issue, but I think the outcome should still be the same. I
46 don't -- I talked to Patti earlier and I told her I don't
47 believe there should be deer hunting in January. It wasn't too
48 long ago Herman told me they used to stop hunting in November,
49 the deer. And in January they're so run down, they stand on
50 the beach all skinny in Eshon (ph) and they gun them down for

00158

1 sport. The meat's in bad shape, it's not really fit for dogs
2 to eat most of the time. It depends on where you're at though.
3 Patti said there's places that have a mild winter, places that
4 have a harsh winter, it depends where you live. Where I live
5 in Sitka and we hunt anywhere from Slocum Arm as far down as
6 Wale Bay, in January those deer are in very bad shape and I
7 think they should be left alone to be used for future
8 generations and to regenerate their stocks.

9
10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Gabe.

11
12 MR. GEORGE: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Angoon
13 submitted the proposal for subsistence deer hunting. Before
14 Angoon submitted their proposal, there wasn't any recognized
15 hunting of subsistence deer, it was all sport. And as far as
16 people eating deer in January, people do eat deer in January,
17 people in Angoon ate deer in January. People in Angoon got
18 arrested and their deer taken away, their guns taken away, and
19 a few other things, you know, their dignity taken away and
20 their culture taken away and their livelihood taken away. So I
21 resent, you know, comments about deer eaten in January, whether
22 you do or someone else does, I think that the proposal was made
23 for a reason and the reason stuck and we got subsistence deer
24 hunting in the books.

25
26 The law was, as I stated before, this State rules and
27 regulations pretty much deal with individuals and couldn't, you
28 know, isolate it to communities and other things. So at one
29 point in time, all hunters, with the exception of Juneau and
30 Ketchikan and a few other places, were subsistence hunters and
31 thus qualified for hunting in January. And I told the Forest
32 Service at that time that with that determination and all,
33 you'll be coming back to Angoon and saying, would you guys be
34 reasonable and cut back because we need to protect the deer
35 stocks, and I said, then I guess we'll see you in court.
36 Because you know, we're trying to protect the subsistence
37 hunters and users in that proposal and in that regulation. And
38 because of State laws and because of situations, it was
39 extended out to everyone, and I know you'll come back and they
40 did, and I said exactly what I'm saying to you, you know, that
41 we'll see you in court. Because it wasn't our doing to make
42 everyone a subsistence user.

43
44 As far as this Sitka use area, we met in Sitka and we
45 tried to look at what the proposal was and how far their use
46 extended and how -- you know, how it comes in conflict with
47 where Angoon hunts, where Kake hunts, where other people hunt,
48 you know, and we never came up with a reasonable solution or in
49 terms of an area that you can address. And yes, we got "beat
50 up," we discussed a lot of the issues at the Sitka meeting. I

00159

1 don't think we got too much resolved. In fact, I know that the
2 issue wasn't like -- like pointed out, wasn't the fact that
3 subsistence hunters were abusing the deer resources at that
4 time, there was some other comments made, but the ones that
5 would be hurt would be the subsistence users and that's not our
6 intent as a Subsistence Regional Council, to hurt the
7 subsistence user. So I don't remember what happened at the end
8 there, but at any rate, that's all I wanted to do was recap
9 some of the issues and some of the things that went on, and
10 where Angoon stands, and I guess, where I stand.

11

12 Thank you.

13

14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Gabe.

15

16 MR. MARTIN: I just had one more question for the
17 Council, and I was just wondering if anybody here felt like
18 five months to go out and get a deer wasn't adequate enough
19 time to harvest a deer? Because on August 1st, the beaches
20 were littered with deer, there was deer everywhere. And the
21 whole month of August was that way. September we go out and we
22 see deer all over. And the winters have been getting mild,
23 they're talking about earth warming and everybody's storms are
24 down in Seattle now, where we used to get winter storms and now
25 it don't hardly even snow anymore. And I think this is going
26 to be a pattern, that's going to be the way of the future. I
27 think this is going to be our climate, it's going to be warm.
28 I don't think we're going to have our big winters. I can
29 remember when I was a kid I used to get up and there'd be
30 three, four feet of snow on the ground, you don't see those
31 anymore. The deer -- as long as they have a big canopy up
32 under their -- over their head of old growth forest and I think
33 five months out of the year, I think they're going to thrive.
34 And I think five months is more than adequate enough to harvest
35 a deer.

36

37 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Sitka is not a real good place to
38 establish a standard. There probably isn't anybody anyplace
39 else that enjoys the resources like Sitka does. There's some
40 that would like to, I think everybody would like to, but not
41 all of them do. And there are some people with different
42 situations at home. Some don't have the means of a pantry,
43 some don't have the means of a freezer. And so there is a time
44 when people need meat at any given time and January and
45 February falls into that time line, and so those are the areas
46 that we're trying to protect for people that have that need.

47

48 MR. MARTIN: Um-hum.

49

50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: So while they might be the minority,

00160

1 everybody in subsistence is a minority. So those are the kind
2 of things that we're trying to cover. We're trying to make
3 sure we're inclusive in everything we do here, so that's the
4 only reason for that.

5
6 I can't recognize Dolly, she's been talking all
7 afternoon. Dolly.

8
9 MS. GARZA: If I remember right, when this came up as
10 an issue, part of it was because Forest Service, and I'm
11 looking at you Ted, felt very uncomfortable about doing an
12 emergency closure or there was a problem with the amount of
13 time it took for an emergency closure. And so in terms of
14 trying to balance it, I'm wondering if there's something we
15 could change so that in a hard winter, when it looks like
16 things are tough, it would be easier to implement that type of
17 a closure and to not impact subsistence users in other years
18 when deer populations are not likely in jeopardy. And I can't
19 remember what was the difficulty in that process, Ted?

20
21 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Ted, do you know.

22
23
24 MR. SCHENCK: Mr. Chairman. Ted Schenck for the
25 record. The Federal Subsistence Board has gotten the emergency
26 closure process down so that it can work fairly timely. But
27 it's only good for a short period of time and then if there's a
28 problem we'd have to go through the regular process. There's a
29 couple of closures -- there needs to be a clear need to trigger
30 it. If there's a health of the herd resource problem, then we
31 can trigger the emergency clauses. I don't recall the specific
32 problem that you're talking about, but we do have -- what your
33 Council has done in the past like here at Yakutat, when there's
34 a quota on the number of animals we tell everybody that the
35 season's going to get closed when you get a certain number of
36 animals and that will be done by a joint emergency closure with
37 the State. So we track the number of animals that are
38 harvested up here and we try to give everybody as much notice
39 as we can. When they get that many they close the season.

40
41 So if there's a need for a closure, for some reason,
42 you'd tell the people ahead of time. That seems to have worked
43 better than us trying to run -- have the Federal Subsistence
44 Board vote on the closure ahead of time, works better than
45 doing it during the season.

46
47 MS. GARZA: If there were a large harvest in Sitka
48 because of very mild weather and it appeared that we could
49 impact the health of that population, can there be an emergency
50 closure of hunting, period, for the rest of the season?

00161

1 MR. SCHENCK: It depends on when that heavy harvest
2 would come up. I'd ask Kim maybe to help here, too. They've
3 closed the season prior to the end of December on occasion, as
4 I recall, in Game Management 4. But the five month season is a
5 fairly conservative season and it'd have to take extraordinary
6 circumstances to do an emergency closure. If we saw those
7 extraordinary circumstances were developing, then we could
8 request the closure.

9
10 MS. GARZA: Okay. And then the second question is if
11 it were an extraordinarily hard winter with el nino, it
12 certainly can be, they don't know which way it's going to go.
13 And we didn't close the season, can we, on emergency order,
14 easily reduce the number of deer that you can take from four to
15 one, which was part of the initial proposal last year?

16
17 MR. SCHENCK: Yes.

18
19 MS. DETWILER: In the closure regulations that the
20 Board has to abide by, the first provision is that the Board
21 may make or direct restriction or closure for the taking of
22 fish and wildlife for subsistence uses. So they can restrict
23 or close.

24
25 MS. GARZA: Thanks.

26
27 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John.

28
29 MR. VALE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I just
30 have one comment listening to this, a short one, that is, I
31 feel true subsistence is the non-wasteful harvest and use of
32 the resource. And if people are allowing a resource to be
33 wasted, I don't believe their -- that that's truly subsistence.
34 I know sometimes animals can get away and you can't find them,
35 but you know, if there really is a problem, to me here, it's an
36 enforcement problem if these animals were taken under
37 subsistence regulations and it's not truly a subsistence
38 problem. So I'd kind of be reluctant to bring about
39 restrictions, you know, under the scenario.

40
41 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. Gabe.

42
43 MR. GEORGE: Yeah, I'd like to say that, John, if you
44 remember, when we were going through C&T, Sitka -- the Sitka
45 issue in terms of subsistence and non-subsistence was a point
46 of large debate and it was talked about extensively about
47 whether Sitka should be a subsistence community or not. And I
48 know that we -- I don't know if we all did, but certainly, you
49 know, we voted in Sitka as being a subsistence community even
50 though it teetered on the edge of 8,000 people in all. So I

00162

1 guess by our definition, you know, the activity that's going on
2 around Sitka is a subsistence activity, you know, because we
3 voted that in. I know it's going to probably come up again
4 sometime in the future should Sitka continue growing. And
5 whether it remains a subsistence community in the future, based
6 on its population and its mixture of Native and non-Native and
7 whatever else you want to consider will be in the future.

8
9 Now, I assume that if they're not a subsistence
10 community, the question of emergency closures on subsistence
11 taking of resources would not be an issue, it would be -- the
12 issue would be -- it would not be talked about. What would be
13 talked about would be closure of a sports hunting season or
14 personal use season, bag limits and use areas. So based on our
15 decision, you know, and by definition and all, that they are a
16 subsistence user group and I think we all fully well knew that
17 in the future we would be discussing the issues that are before
18 us today by the vast number of people that are in Sitka and
19 their use area is expanding.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. Nels.

24
25 MR. LAWSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you,
26 Council. I will frame my remarks to the Council this time in
27 another role that I serve the community of Sitka as, the
28 president of the Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp #1. I
29 testified at the Sitka hearings on this issue. They'll speak
30 to the issue of wanton waste.

31
32 Wanton waste has always been happening. I have
33 personally witnessed and found carcasses of deer in the woods,
34 especially along the transportation systems that are on the
35 National Forest lands. Incidents where the -- a large deer was
36 in the brush with the head removed, sometimes just the head and
37 maybe a couple hindquarters. Those kinds of things have always
38 been happening and it's been happening before the Council
39 recommended that shooting from the boat become legal. I also
40 suspect that when shooting from the boat was not legal it
41 occurred and it occurred from other people who did not fully
42 recover the deer, maybe wounded the deer and let them go. I
43 believe that was happening before shooting from the boat became
44 legal. It only became a news item when shooting from the boat
45 became legal and those that were monitoring the deer harvest
46 only began looking for deer after that became legal. So we
47 don't really know when this became a problem. It only became
48 noticed when it became an issue, and the conclusion that
49 shooting from the boat is causing this wanton waste. And it's
50 been my experience, as a hunter from the Sitka area, that

00163

1 wanton waste was occurring long before shooting from the boat
2 became legal.

3
4 Now, wanton waste or not retrieving the entire deer and
5 utilizing all the meat is already an illegal activity. I
6 personally know of many hunters in the Sitka area that hunt for
7 subsistence and they utilize all the deer, they always bring
8 back the deer. Now, one of the things I have a little bit of a
9 problem with is the issue of bringing back -- when you're
10 bringing back the head with the deer. Personally, I don't
11 really care for the head, what I want is the meat. So when I --
12 when it becomes after September 15th when it's legal to shoot
13 both sexes, if I shoot a buck in the woods I normally remove
14 the head and leave the head in the woods and pack the meat out
15 because the head is not what I'm after and it's just extra
16 weight to pack out which is the opposite of what we hear about
17 what sportsmen do. They leave the carcass there and pack the
18 head out.

19
20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21
22 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Nels. When I do that I go
23 to the deer with no head, that way there's nothing to worry
24 about. Marty.

25
26 MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I just had one
27 more comment. Just like was Nels was saying, wanton waste has
28 always been a problem. Sitka's a very large community of
29 hunters. I think probably in Southeast on a population of
30 hunters, I think we probably have the biggest community in
31 Southeast that hunt. And we do have a rural status and we are
32 subsistence hunters. And I think the wanton waste issue, it is
33 against the law to wanton waste the deer meat, but I think
34 what's happening here is what I feel is going to be turning
35 around and it'll be used against us, the wanton waste, it's an
36 enforcement issue, and I don't think they should penalize the
37 population of hunters for a few that abuse the privilege to
38 hunt such a magnificent animal as a deer.

39
40 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Patty.

41
42 MS. PHILLIPS: This really should be submitted as new
43 proposals because I recognize that there's a Sitka use area.
44 And the reason I'm basing that justification is that part of
45 the TLMP draft plan stated 3-124 Subsistence, a significant
46 possibility of a significant restriction of subsistence use by
47 increasing competition for some subsistence resources by non-
48 rural as well as rural residents. This is most likely to occur
49 on Chichagof, Baranof and/or Prince of Wales Islands where
50 competition for deer and some other land mammals is already

00164

1 heavy and habitat capability has been reduced as a result of
2 timber harvest. And more recently this Tongass Forest Plan
3 Review states, the subsistence analysis identified seven areas
4 near Juneau, Hoonah, Sitka and Craig and Klawock, where current
5 deer harvest exceed 20 percent of the estimated habitat
6 capability and another 23 areas exceeding 10 percent of
7 capability, four on Admiralty, five on Chichagof, four on
8 Baranof and eight on Prince of Wales Island and two near
9 Ketchikan. Areas where deer harvest exceeds 20 percent of the
10 deer population are those where deer harvest may be restricted,
11 either directly through restrictions in seasons and bag limits
12 or indirectly through reduced hunter efficiency and increased
13 difficulty in obtaining deer relative to historical rate.
14

15 So what I'm recognizing is that the Sitka Peril Straits
16 use area is getting more competitive for the resource that's
17 there, and so I want to recognize what area that Sitka use area
18 is. And I also want to try to address, through regulation, the
19 utilization of wildlife and the wanton waste issue. And I
20 thought that the proposal to reduce the possession limit to one
21 in January for the Sitka use area was a way to address that. So
22 there are actually three issues there.
23

24 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: If that wasn't a provision that was
25 put in there what would happen? Would that suggest that
26 provision isn't allowable for any harvest?
27

28 MS. PHILLIPS: What provision?
29

30 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Would a harvest in January be in
31 violation -- do we have a regulation that allows for it?
32

33 MS. GARZA: Four day or.....
34

35 MR. MARTIN: Six.
36

37 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: What's that?
38

39 MS. GARZA: Right now it would be six a day.
40

41 MS. PHILLIPS: In January.
42

43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: In January?
44

45 MS. GARZA: Yes. So in the proposal last year, we
46 tried to cut it down to one and one got beat up.
47

48 MS. PHILLIPS: So we could even change it to two. I
49 mean we could change that possession limit to two, you know.
50 I'm just looking at, we have.....

00165

1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: If you offer the proposal, Patti,
2 we'll work with it. We'll support it.

3
4 MS. PHILLIPS: Well, I guess wanted to make clear that
5 we have three issues here so that's possibly three proposals or
6 we could just put it in one proposal.

7
8 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I think for the better survivability
9 I think three independent ones would be better otherwise we'll
10 look like our Congressional delegations putting riders on
11 there.

12
13 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay.

14
15 MS. GARZA: I guess my concern, Mr. Chairman, is
16 generally we've had Council proposals that have been supported
17 by the Council because it was brought forward by the community.
18 And no offense to Patti, but I think it becomes a real issue
19 when it's not being brought forward by Sitka. And when Sitka,
20 in its long deliberations over the subject has not come to the
21 same conclusions, I'm not sure that I could support one -- I
22 know that I could not because I'd go back to Sitka and get beat
23 up.

24
25 MS. PHILLIPS: Well, at least.....

26
27 MS. GARZA: I think that it can be accomplished through
28 emergency regulation. That was my understanding, if there's an
29 issue, it can be done.

30
31 MS. PHILLIPS: Well, you know, that's fine because I
32 could submit it as an individual and it would still be open for
33 public comment.

34
35 MS. WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

36
37 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Mary (sic).

38
39 MS. WILSON: I'm hearing one proposal might be for
40 wanton waste of the resource deer. Why is it -- I don't think
41 subsistence users waste, so this is -- it should be in the
42 State department maybe?

43
44 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: That's in ANILCA anyway.

45
46 MR. VALE: Yeah. That would be.....

47
48 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: It's part of ANILCA. ANILCA says no
49 wanton waste. Not wasteful use.

50

00166

1 MS. WILSON: Okay. When I was in the State Fish and
2 Game and we were in the regional and you read all the
3 regulations and rules for State hunting and fishing, they never
4 had no wanton waste for the sports hunting regulations. They
5 didn't have that in there. And I think that they should. I
6 mean it's always been in the subsistence part. Like we would
7 do it, you know. So I think that's very unfair. If we could
8 remember not to jeopardize our subsistence users and hunters
9 and fishermen at the expense of the other user groups.

10
11 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. I think we've got a
12 clarification. Kim. Grab the phone please.

13
14 MR. TITUS: Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Give him the phone, Marty. Thank
17 you.

18
19 MR. TITUS: Good afternoon. My name is Kim Titus, I
20 work for the Department of Fish and Game. The State hunting
21 regulations actually have two full pages about the salvage of
22 meat and wanton waste regulations, generally that indicate --
23 very clearly indicate how meat must be handled in the field and
24 what meat must be brought out before antlers and so on and so
25 forth, extensive writings in State codify on that issue and
26 they've been around for a long time.

27
28 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you very much. Okay, make
29 sure. Patti.

30
31 MS. PHILLIPS: Well, you know, I know that true
32 subsistence users don't wanton waste, but the population of
33 Sitka is 5,000 approximately, I'm guessing. What is it, 2,000?

34
35 MR. VALE: Eight.

36
37 MS. PHILLIPS: 8,000, and they're all qualified
38 subsistence users.

39
40 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: They're eligible.

41
42 MS. PHILLIPS: They're eligible as, you know, qualified
43 subsistence users and there's this issue of wanton waste coming
44 out of Sitka.

45
46 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Nels.

47
48 MR. LAWSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

49
50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You guys are surrendering.

00167

1 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I'm just getting started.

2

3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I thought I saw a rack back there.

4

5 MR. LAWSON: Thank you, again, Mr. Chairman. I guess
6 the issue of wanton waste that is occurring within the Sitka
7 area is being blamed on the Sitka people. However, I think
8 without any supporting evidence that it's an unfair blame. So
9 within the community of Sitka we have many sport hunters that
10 come from outside of our area and utilize those resources that
11 occur on National Forest lands. Now, we don't know if those
12 are residents or non-residents. Non-residents are also
13 harvesting those resources. So to say, Sitka is or Sitka
14 residents or the rural residents of Sitka are wanton waste
15 without adding that it might be also occurring somewhere is an
16 unfair placement of the blame of wanton waste. Also other
17 communities, such as Pelican, come down the coast and hunt
18 within the Sitka area also. So we might want to then include
19 the community of Pelican in the issue of wanton waste.

20

21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22

23 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Marty.

24

25 MR. MARTIN: I'm just getting my second wind, Mr.
26 Chairman. I don't know, I feel like what Patti was saying on
27 her statistics, she was saying that we exceed allowable numbers
28 of deer already, so I don't understand why we even want to have
29 a January hunt when you feel that we shoot up that many animals
30 already.

31

32 Then another thing we were sitting here discussing, is
33 I think it's unfair and it's no -- both of us agree that it is
34 no -- we respect Patti's view and her comments and she's a
35 great asset to your advisory, but we don't go into somebody
36 else's backyard and start imposing regulation.

37

38 MS. PHILLIPS: Excuse me. I have to address that right
39 now. From this book that we just got, that my job as a Council
40 member is, I do not represent only the people in my village or
41 town, I represent all the people in Southeast region. That is
42 my duty. My written duty given to me from the Secretary of
43 Interior and I take that duty strongly. I'm not coming in your
44 backyard, I'm born and raised in Sitka, moved to Pelican. So
45 just watch where you tread because I'm representing Southeast
46 Alaska.

47

48 MR. MARTIN: I can respect that Patti.

49

50 MS. PHILLIPS: But my knowledge is Pelican region.

00168

1 Actually I worked throughout Southeast Alaska because of my
2 commercial fishing enterprises, so I have an expertise to
3 offer.

4
5 MR. MARTIN: Well, I grew up in Hoonah and I can't even
6 go home and hunt for my dad anymore because they consider that
7 out of bounds for myself.

8
9 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, okay. Let's get with the
10 proposal you guys. It sounds like a wedding on the rocks to
11 me.

12
13 MS. PHILLIPS: I'm sorry, I had to respond.

14
15 MS. RUDOLPH: I think it's like what Dolly mentioned
16 about how this was such a sensitive issue and we are going back
17 to a very sensitive issue. And I don't think it's going to be
18 without putting Sitka down when they go back home will be
19 dealing with the village people if somebody is done here that
20 they don't approve of, but you look at Unit 4, that entails
21 quite a bit. And just how many of the other villages are going
22 to have the impression that Sitka had a hand in taking the
23 subsistence use away for us in our village in Hoonah by
24 January, there's no jobs, there's -- all the logging is closed,
25 the different things are closed for our men so that by January
26 when they do go out hunting -- I know they don't go out and
27 look for the skinniest deer, they go out with the intention of
28 bringing home a deer that they can feed their family with or
29 families outside of their families that need the food by then.
30 So it's -- like I mentioned earlier, it's a very sensitive
31 issue and it's something that was fought for with the intention
32 of helping out people at that time in the villages because of
33 lack of jobs at that particular time.

34
35 So it's something we need to be very careful on with
36 just what was said here. Now, we've tread on each other a
37 little bit with the intention of trying to solve a problem.
38 And I see that with the possibility of Sitka group getting
39 beaten by the other side villages because they'll feel they
40 have taken something away that they rightfully feel that by
41 that time they need.

42
43 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

44
45 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. The reason I let this go
46 on because we all learn something by the dialogue. Now, we
47 understand that as Council members we represent the region.
48 There are some things that we're taking personal, that's all
49 right. But one thing for sure is that any member on this
50 Council or anybody in the building has the right to submit a

00169

1 proposal with any language they wish to do to implicate
2 anything they wish to have on there. In our case it was going
3 to come from the Council, the Council's got the liberty and the
4 opportunity to review the contents and the implications of that
5 proposal. If they don't agree with it, then they don't support
6 it. But we got to give it the opportunity to go forward.

7

8 Nels.

9

10 MR. LAWSON: Mr. Chairman, thank you again. I think we
11 all agree that the waste of deer, specifically, is an issue
12 that needs to be addressed. Now, I think what we're not
13 agreeing on is the solution to that. But I offer some of my
14 observations as one of the things that the Sitka Sentinel does
15 is they publish the police blotter and one can glean some kind
16 of information from that. And one of the pieces of information
17 that I have gleaned from the police blotter is that the last
18 two years there has been an increase in the monitoring of
19 properly validating your deer harvest ticket.

20

21 Now, if we can monitor the deer harvest ticket, why,
22 cannot we extend that and increase the monitoring of bringing
23 out the whole deer? Now, it's a pretty stiff fine if you don't
24 fill out your monitor ticket quite right.

25

26 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yeah. I think that's something you
27 can do as a community. But in our case, the reason we're on
28 this agenda item is to develop C&T proposals, and that's season
29 and bag limits. And so from now on, I should have done it
30 earlier, but I like to be flexible, I'm a nice guy. Everybody
31 agree? Yeah, everybody agrees. But if Patti wishes to submit
32 a proposal like she wishes to do, then she will, and I'm going
33 to allow that to go forward and I'm going to allow the time for
34 us to act on it. And whatever our actions from this Council
35 are is what we're going to live with.

36

37 Dolly.

38

39 MS. GARZA: Dolly, I'd like to move to recess until
40 tomorrow. I can see that there's people trying to get ready
41 for tonight. And I think that if we have a break tonight it
42 would give us the opportunity to draft proposals if we need to
43 that we can present so that we're looking at something instead
44 of talking around everything and not coming to a good
45 conclusion.

46

47 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, I think when you got a full
48 stomach you're not tenacious. I think we're ugly when we're
49 hungry.

50

00170

1 MS. GARZA: I could get uglier.

2

3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: No you can't. Marty.

4

5 MR. MARTIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say
6 one more thing before we adjourn here tonight.

7

8 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Recess.

9

10 MR. MARTIN: Or recess. My intention was never to
11 upset anybody of the Advisory Council. We are expressing our
12 opinions to the best of our ability from where we come from and
13 there's only two of us here today, but it doesn't mean that
14 there aren't other people that believe the same things that we
15 do and we're trying to express our opinion and our views to the
16 best of our ability. And if we upset anybody, we're sorry.

17

18 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, thank you. With that,
19 we'll reconvene at 6:30 a.m.

20

21 (Hearing recessed)

22

23

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

) ss.

STATE OF ALASKA

)

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska and Reporter for R&R Court Reporters, Inc., do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 02 through 170 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the Southeast Regional Subsistence Advisory Council meeting taken electronically by me on the 30th day of September and 1st day of October 1997, beginning at the hour of 2:00 o'clock p.m. at the ANB/ANS Hall, Yakutat, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by me to the best of my knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, October 10, 1997.

Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 11/5/98